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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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PHOTOS BY KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Protesters burn property in front of the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad on Tuesday.

## Iraqi protesters storm US Embassy

Militiamen breach compound shouting 'Death to America' in wake of airstrikes

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Dozens of Iraqi Shiite militiamen and their supporters shouting "Death to America" broke into the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad on Tuesday, smashing a main door and setting fire to a reception area, angered over deadly U.S. airstrikes targeting the Iran-backed militia. U.S. guards fired tear gas and palls of

smoke rose over the grounds.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw flames rising from inside the compound and at least three U.S. troops on the roof of the main embassy building. There was a fire at the reception area near the compound's parking lot but it was unclear what had started it. A man on a loudspeaker urged the mob not to enter the compound, saying, "The message was delivered."

SEE EMBASSY ON PAGE 6



Iraqi protesters damage property inside the U.S. Embassy.

## Military, federal civilians set for largest pay boost in years

By SLOBODAN LEKIC  
Stars and Stripes

January will usher in the biggest pay raise since 2010 for U.S. service members, and also bring a long-awaited salary increase for federal civilian employees.

Service members and Defense Department civilians are each slated to receive an average 3.1% bump in annual pay as part of the \$737 billion military budget for 2020 — \$22 billion more than last year's defense measure.

Congress passed the record-setting defense bill in December with strong bipartisan support. It includes the creation of a Space Force, one of President Donald Trump's top priorities for the Pentagon, and provisions aimed at improving military housing conditions. The Department of Veterans Affairs will get a 9% boost in funding, its largest budgetary increase ever.

The 2020 raise is the largest for service members since a 3.4% annual pay hike in 2010. Since then, annual increases have ranged between 1% and 2.6%.

For federal civilian employees, the 3.1% average increase will constitute the largest raise since 2008, when they received a 3.5% average pay adjustment, statistics published by the Federal News Network stated. For much of the 2010s, federal employees received either no raise or a 1% annual hike.

The White House had originally planned to freeze federal pay in 2020 but reversed course in August and allowed a 2.6% across-the-board increase. On Friday, Trump signed an executive order putting into effect a measure that also includes locality pay averaging an extra 0.5%.

The civilian increases state-side should range from 2.85% to 3.52% with locality pay factored in, a Federal News Network analysis found. The highest average increases will come in the Washington metro area and around other large cities.

SEE PAY ON PAGE 5

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Former Nissan boss Ghosn flees to Lebanon over 'injustice'

Associated Press

TOKYO — Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, said Tuesday from Lebanon that he was not fleeing justice but instead left Japan to avoid "injustice and political persecution" over financial misconduct allegations during his tenure leading the automaker.

Ghosn had been released on bail by a Tokyo court while awaiting trial but was not allowed to travel overseas. He disclosed his location in a statement through

his representatives that did not describe how he left Japan, where he had been under surveillance.

"I am now in Lebanon and will no longer be held hostage by a rigged Japanese justice system where guilt is presumed, discrimination is rampant, and basic human rights are denied, in flagrant disregard of Japan's legal obligations under international law and treaties it is bound to uphold," the statement said.

Japanese media quoted prosecutors speaking anonymously

who said they did not know how Ghosn had left.

Ghosn, who is of Lebanese origin and holds French, Lebanese and Brazilian passports, was arrested in November 2018 and was expected to face trial in April 2020.

Ghosn has been charged with under-reporting his future compensation and breach of trust.

Japan does not have an extradition treaty with Lebanon. It is unclear what steps authorities might take.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 2)	\$1.1492
Dollar buys (Jan. 2)	\$0.8702
British pound (Jan. 2)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Jan. 2)	107.00
South Korean won (Jan. 2)	1,128.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3215
Canada (Dollar)	1.3003
China (Yuan)	6.9636
Denmark (Krone)	6.6591
Egypt (Pound)	16.6662
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1215/9913
India (Rupee)	79.689
Israel (Shekel)	3.4670
Japan (Yen)	106.62
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3032
Norway (Krone)	8.7756
Philippines (Peso)	50.72
Poland (Zloty)	3.79
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7515
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3448
South Korea (Won)	1,154.33
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9567
Thailand (Baht)	29.77
Turkey (New Lira)	5.9501

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.95
3-month bill	1.52
30-year bond	2.34

### WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY

# PCS tax bills for civilian employees are coming due

By CATILIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

Just before the holidays, Mo Bak, an engineer for the federal government, received a letter demanding \$1,600 to reimburse the Defense Department for taxes it paid to move her for her job.

She'd relocated with her two children in 2019 from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to Yokota Air Base, both in Japan. The bill covered taxes on the costs to ship her property about 525 miles from one base to the other.

"(I) honestly didn't think it was going to be such a huge amount — and this was just on a move in-country," Bak said. "If I was coming from the states it would be more insane."

Bak, like hundreds of other federal employees hired after Jan. 1, 2018, was caught by a change in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that did away with a deduction for moving expenses, including what the government spent to move its own employees. That money instead was redefined as taxable income.

Now many of those employees must repay the Defense Finance Accounting Service the money it paid the IRS on their behalf. Some will also have to file amended returns for 2018 reflecting the moving benefit.

The 2017 tax law change left DFAS to implement a new system to withhold taxes on moving ben-

efits for DOD civilian employees.

In September 2018, it began withholding taxes on moving-related reimbursements to employees, but a system to withhold taxes on payments to vendors — such as shipping or storage companies — was not implemented until the following year.

That meant employees who moved before September 2019 were still on the hook for Medicare, Social Security and federal income taxes on the money the government paid directly to packing, moving and shipping companies.

Those tax bills are now coming due, and thousands of federal employees like Bak should expect debt letters and updated federal income returns in their mailboxes this month, according to DFAS.

DFAS in November began notifying those DOD employees by email of upcoming tax bills, DFAS said.

Since then, Stars and Stripes interviewed more than a dozen affected workers who reported receiving tax bills between \$1,500 and \$15,000 for moving benefits.

## Tax bill breakdown

All moving benefits are taxable now, but because withholding started in September 2018, the outstanding taxes are related only to money paid directly to vendors. Other moving costs such as airfare or hotels were already

taxed when the employee submitted a claim for reimbursement.

For those who moved in 2018, DFAS paid the IRS the Social Security and Medicare taxes on money it paid third-party vendors — such as commercial moving companies. For 2019 moves, DFAS also paid the 22% income tax on those payments.

The DFAS debt letters are to reimburse the agency those expenditures.

Employees who moved in 2018 must pay the IRS directly the 22% income tax on the money paid to outside vendors, DFAS said. Those employees will receive corrected federal wage and earning forms — called W-2Cs — amending their 2018 reported income to reflect both earned wages and expenses the government paid to move them.

## Reimbursement

Affected federal employees can recoup the money they pay in taxes on their moving allowances by applying to either of two programs: Withholding Tax Allowance or Relocation Income Tax Allowance.

A loophole that previously excluded new, retired or separated employees since 2018 from receiving reimbursement was fixed with the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

Prior language in the U.S. tax code enacting those programs



CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

**A mover carries a family's possessions from base housing at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Nov. 13. A change in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 did away with a deduction for moving expenses.**

used the word "employee" when defining eligibility for those programs. That meant people technically between jobs — those who left a civilian job, moved and started a federal job or who quit a federal job — were considered ineligible for reimbursement of the tax on their moving benefit.

"In the case of retirees, it was a betrayal of promises made to them years or even decades earlier, when they first joined (federal work)," the Federal Education Association said in a Dec. 12 statement.

But the defense authorization act — signed into law Dec. 20

— changed the language from "employee" to "individual," making incoming and outgoing employees eligible for the Relocation Income Tax Allowance.

The change is also retroactive, extending the program to those who moved "anytime in the past two calendar years," according to the teacher's union.

Affected employees can file for tax reimbursement through the RITA program after their 2019 or amended 2018 tax returns are submitted, according to DFAS.

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# Former Marine pitches Australian-US amphibious force

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Australia should establish a combined amphibious force including 2,000 Marines and a similar number of sailors based in Darwin, Australia, to build regional support for countering China's ambitions in the western Pacific, according to a former Marine colonel.

Grant Newsham, now a senior researcher with the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies, Tokyo, said Monday that the Marine Corps, which rotated 2,500 Marines through Darwin during the summer, needs to see Australia as more than just a great place to train.

"I look at it as more of an opportunity to influence not just in Australia but right out to the heart of Southeast Asia," Newsham said. Darwin is a lot farther from Chinese shore-based missile batteries than places where the Marines already have a permanent presence in the region, such as Okinawa.

Gen. David H. Berger, commander of the Marine Corps, wrote in a commentary published



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

**U.S. Marines secure Kings Beach near the Australian town of Bowen during an amphibious exercise July 22. A former Marine colonel says an Australian-American amphibious force in the western Pacific should be considered.**

Dec. 5 by War on the Rocks, a website on national security, about the challenges posed by the rise of Chinese military power in the Pacific.

Berger wrote that U.S. "forward bases and legacy infrastructure within the adversary's weapons engagement zone are now extremely vulnerable."

Newsham said an "Australian-American Amphibious Force" supported by amphibious ships from both nations could solve

that problem. Such a force could be home-ported in Darwin along with facilities such as American schools and shops, he said.

The facility could serve as a schoolhouse for amphibious forces from other nations in the region such as New Zealand, Singapore, Japan and South Korea. And Darwin could host an amphibious version of the Rim of the Pacific exercise that is held in Hawaii every other year, he said. "Draw foreign militaries into

your orbit to have them see themselves as trusted partners and equals," he said.

Darwin-based Marines could travel to nearby Southeast Asia to train with locals and establish a presence, Newsham said.

"The more you do and the more places you do it, the more influence you are going to have," he said. "Otherwise you are like the Harlem Globetrotters — you show up once in a while and go away."

Darwin is the perfect spot to work on guidance from Berger to send small contingents of Marines throughout the region, Newsham said.

"The Marines haven't done the work to get the access to put that policy into effect, but Darwin is a great place to build influence," he said.

The port already has plenty of room for amphibious ships but creating a purpose-built base would make it even better, he said.

The U.S. and South Korea armies activated their first combined division by adding South Korean troops to the 2nd Infantry Division in 2015. Newsham

suggested that doing something similar in Australia would be a simpler task.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, for example, was formed in 1914 during World War I.

The new amphibious force wouldn't require stationing an aircraft carrier Down Under, Newsham said. Air support for the Marines could be provided by aircraft operating from bases in the Northern Territory or new F-35B stealth jets flying off the decks of amphibious ships, he said.

James Holmes, a strategist at the Naval War College, wrote on Dec. 9 in National Interest magazine that concerns about China could boost Australian support for a permanent U.S. military presence Down Under.

"Stationing military forces overseas inspires trust. In turn, an unbreakable bond between America and Australia could give China pause the next time it contemplates making mischief," he wrote.

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## MILITARY

# Tricare OKs laser therapy for some Gls' razor bumps

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

The military's health care system will now pay for some service members with severe razor bumps to receive laser therapy treatment at civilian facilities.

Tricare says it will foot the laser bill for active-duty personnel suffering from pseudofolliculitis barbae, or PFB, once skin creams and other conservative treatments have failed.

Laser therapy can be expensive but it's considered the most effective treatment for severe PFB, a persistent irritation most common on the face and neck caused by shaving.

The new Tricare policy was announced in December and first reported by Military.com. It follows the Navy's decision in October to end permanent shaving waivers for sailors after concluding

that facial hair can hinder the effectiveness of breathing mask and respirator seals.

Such problems have led the Army to study alternative systems and others, such as Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, a Sikh former soldier who deployed to Afghanistan three times, to develop beard-friendly, hooded gas masks.

To qualify for laser therapy coverage outside the military medical network, service members must work in an environment where breathing protection may be required and laser therapy isn't available on base, according to the policy change, which is backdated to July 17, 2019.

Razor bumps are caused when curly hair curves back into the skin after being shaved, causing inflammation. The condition, which can be painful, affects many African Americans, according



COLVILLE McFEE/U.S. Air Force

**An airman has his neck and face inspected during a shaving waiver course in 2018. Tricare says service members will no longer need a waiver to get laser treatments for razor bumps at a civilian facility.**

according to past studies.

The Navy estimates that of more than 337,000 sailors in its ranks, about 6,000 are treated for the condition annually.

Some sailors with the condition previously received a shaving waiver, or "no-shave chit." Under the new Navy policy, sailors are able to obtain only a temporary shaving waiver and must see a doctor every six months if the condition continues.

The Navy says treatment options include the use of medicated creams to make hair easier to shave; shaving with gentle equipment; and shaving techniques to minimize the risk of irritation

and hair reentry into the skin.

The service said in October that laser hair reduction "is the most reliable approach allowing a return to Navy grooming standards."

Laser therapy may take up to three to seven sessions to be effective, said a study published in April by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

The average cost of a laser hair removal session in 2016 was \$306, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

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## Navy limits guest access to some bases after incidents

Associated Press

BANGOR, Wash. — The Navy is curtailing access to installations around the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington state following two fatal shootings and a gate crash at other bases around the country in the past month.

The Kitsap Sun reported guests of base residents, workers and military members must be vetted by security to visit the base's locations at Bremerton, Bangor, Keyport, Manchester and Naval Hospital, Bremerton, according to Lonnie Collier, a spokesman. Guests will also need an escort at all times and cannot go to on-base facilities including exchanges, commissaries and chapels.

The temporary restrictions are in response to unrelated attacks earlier this month by gunmen at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii, and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.; in a third incident, a driver entered an exit from a base in Virginia and struck and killed a sailor.

"We take the safety of those working and living on Naval Base Kitsap very seriously," said Capt. Richard Rhinehart, base commander.

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## MILITARY

# As deadline passes, Kim calls for 'offensive' countermeasures

BY KIM GAMEL  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The stage was set for an increase in tensions as the United States missed North Korea's end-of-year deadline to break the deadlock in nuclear talks on Tuesday amid fears the communist state plans to resume long-range missile tests.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for "offensive political, diplomatic and military countermeasures" to protect his country's security and sovereignty in a seven-hour speech on Monday, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The communist state has threatened to adopt an unspecified "new way" if Washington fails to propose a more flexible approach to talks that have stalled over conflicting demands for sanctions relief and more extensive steps toward denuclearization.

Kim, who was also widely expected to make a New Year's speech on Wednesday, didn't mention nuclear weapons or specify the countermeasures that should be taken in his remarks to a meeting of the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party.

But he stressed the need to develop "the party into a militant party full of vitality and vigor," KCNA reported on Tuesday.

The third-generation leader also called for measures to improve the country's economy, which has been hard-hit by international sanctions.

South Korea said it was closely watching the party meeting but declined to speculate on the meaning behind Kim's words, Lee Sang-min, a spokesman for the Unification Ministry, said.

The meeting, which KCNA said was ongoing, was being closely watched for signs that Kim is preparing to abandon diplomacy with the United States in what would be a blow to a key foreign policy goal of President Donald Trump's administration.



GODFREY AMPONG/U.S. Marine Corps

## Pay: Union had complained of stagnant salaries

FROM FRONT PAGE

Prior to the passage of the bill, the American Federation of Government Employees had complained that its members were earning less in 2019 than at the start of the decade because salaries had failed to keep pace with inflation. It said government agencies were struggling to recruit employees due to

noncompetitive salaries that lagged behind private sector pay.

More than 30% of federal workers are veterans, the Office of Personnel Management stated in 2017.

Last week, the OPM published the 2020 pay tables and a general salary calculator at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov).

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## Big steps

A recruit with Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, goes down the rappel tower at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on Monday.

The New Sanno Presents

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THE NEW SANNO

## MIDEAST

# Taliban prisoners see peace deal as ticket to freedom

By KATHY GANNON  
Associated Press

**PUL-E-CHARKHI, Afghanistan** — Thousands of Taliban prisoners jailed in Afghanistan as insurgents see a peace deal being hammered out between the United States and the Taliban as their ticket to freedom.

They know a prisoner release is a key pillar of any agreement that brings an end to Afghanistan's 18-year war, Washington's longest military engagement.

A list of about 5,000 Taliban prisoners has been given to the Americans, and their release has been written into the agreement under discussion, said a Taliban official familiar with the on-again, off-again talks taking place in Qatar. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. U.S. and Afghan government officials have said a prisoner release is part of the negotiation.

But some analysts say freeing prisoners could undermine peace in Afghanistan.

"There's a need for Afghan and U.S. officials to do their due diligence on any Taliban prisoners they're planning to release, in order to minimize the likelihood that they'll set free jihadists that

can do destabilizing things and undercut a fledgling peace process," warned Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson Center.

The Associated Press interviewed more than a dozen Taliban prisoners inside the notorious Pul-e-Charkhi prison on the eastern edge of the capital, Kabul. Several of them were nostalgic for the Taliban's Afghanistan, ruled by the mighty hand of their previous leader, the reclusive Mullah Mohammed Omar, who died several years ago.

But they also insisted that they accept it would not be the same now and that, though they still wanted what they call Islamic rule, they no longer call for some of their strict edicts, like the ban on education and on girls and women working.

On Sunday, the Taliban ruling council agreed to a temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan, providing a window in which a peace agreement with the U.S. can be signed, Taliban officials said. They didn't say when it would begin.

The Taliban have well-organized communication networks inside Afghan prisons that record the latest arrests, province



RAHMAT GUL/AP

**Jailed Taliban are seen inside the Pul-e-Charkhi jail in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Dec. 14. Thousands of Taliban prisoners see a peace deal as their ticket to freedom.**

by province, as well as who is sick and who has died. It all gets delivered to a prisoners' commission, devoted to their release and headed by Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, who during the Taliban rule served as justice minister and the "virtue and vice" minister in charge of religious police.

Built in the 1970s to house 5,000 prisoners, Pul-e-Charkhi now has 10,500 prisoners, according to the warden, Akhtar Nozori.

The around 3,000 prisoners classified as Taliban are in their own block.

The prisoners had free rein in a room where they could mingle, pray and study. The room was lined with small desks at which the Taliban sat on the carpeted floor in traditional style.

The AP interviewed the prisoners in a nearby room, unshackled

and with no guards or administrators present. The prisoners decided among themselves who among them would be interviewed, without interference — at least none visible — from the administration.

Maulvi Niaz Mohammad emerged as the leader among the prisoners, although no one identified him as such. He was sentenced to 15 years. During the Taliban rule, he served with Qari Ahmadullah, a Taliban intelligence commander who controlled much of northern Afghanistan.

He said barely 1,000 of the prisoners in the block are actually Taliban. The rest were accused of being sympathizers or members of the group, often to settle old scores; others were criminals.

Analysts and even the United States' own Special Inspector

General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John F. Sopko said neither Afghanistan nor the U.S. is ready for the Taliban prisoners' release.

Every past attempt at reintegration has been costly and a failure.

A report released in September — one of several "Lessons Learned" treatises done by Sopko's team during America's 18-year and \$1 trillion involvement in Afghanistan — said Afghans on both sides of the conflict need to avoid the missteps of the past.

Sopko said Congress should consider funding reintegration only if a peace deal provides a framework for reintegrating ex-combatants, there is strong monitoring of the process and violence is dramatically reduced.

## Embassy: More troops being sent to protect compound; no evacuations planned

### FROM FRONT PAGE

There were no reports of casualties, but the unprecedented breach was one of the worst attacks on the embassy in memory. It followed deadly U.S. airstrikes on Sunday that killed 25 fighters of the Iran-backed militia in Iraq, the Kataeb Hezbollah. The U.S. military said the airstrikes were in retaliation for last week's killing of an American contractor in a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base that it had blamed on the militia.

President Donald Trump blamed Iran for the embassy breach and called on Iraq to protect the diplomatic mission.

"Iran killed an American contractor, wounding many. We strongly responded, and always will. Now Iran is orchestrating an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. They will be held fully responsible. In addition, we expect Iraq to use its forces to protect the Embassy, and so notified," he tweeted from his estate in Palm Beach, Fla.

By early evening, protesters had set up tents outside the embassy where they said they intended to stage a sit-in. Dozens



ROBERT GAVALDON/ U.S. Marine Corps

**Marines prepare to deploy from Kuwait in support of a crisis response mission Tuesday after Iraqis stormed the U.S. Embassy grounds in Baghdad.**

of yellow flags belonging to Iran-backed Shiite militias fluttered atop the reception area and were plastered along the embassy's concrete wall along with anti-U.S. graffiti.

Trump, who is spending the holiday week at his Florida home, is in "close touch" and receiving regular updates from his na-

tional security team, said White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham.

The U.S. will send more troops to protect the embassy compound and does not plan an evacuation, the Pentagon and State Department said.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the U.S. has taken actions to

"ensure the safety of American citizens, military personnel and diplomats" and to "ensure our right of self-defense. We are sending additional forces to support our personnel at the Embassy."

The extra force will consist of a small additional detachment of Marine security guards, two defense officials in Washington said. They would be from the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, which is trained specifically to provide security at U.S. diplomatic missions. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be identified.

"U.S. personnel are secure," added an official from the State Department. "There are no plans to evacuate Embassy Baghdad."

The developments represent a major downturn in Iraq-U.S. relations that could further undermine U.S. influence in the region and also weaken Washington's hand in its maximum pressure campaign against Iran.

Iraq has long struggled to balance its ties with the U.S. and Iran, both allies of the Iraqi government. But the government's angry reaction to the U.S. airstrikes and its apparent decision not to pre-

vent the protesters from reaching the embassy signaled a sharp deterioration of U.S.-Iraq relations.

A video obtained by the AP showed militiamen trashing the embassy's reception area and also taking away paperwork.

Multiple officials told the AP that the U.S. ambassador was already traveling outside Iraq before the attack on the compound.

The U.S. airstrikes and the subsequent calls by the militia for retaliation represent a new escalation in the proxy war between the U.S. and Iran playing out in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday's strikes send the message that the U.S. will not tolerate actions by Iran that jeopardize American lives.

The U.S. military said "precision defensive strikes" were conducted against five sites of Kataeb Hezbollah, or Hezbollah Brigades, in Iraq and Syria. The group, which is a separate force from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, operates under the umbrella of the state-sanctioned militias known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces. Many of them are supported by Iran.



# NATION

## Anti-robocall law should slow flow

Associated Press

NEW YORK — An anti-robocalls measure signed into law Monday by President Donald Trump should help reduce the torrent of unwanted calls promising lower interest rates or pretending to be the IRS, though it won't make all such calls disappear.

The new law gives authorities more enforcement powers and could speed up measures the industry is already taking to identify robocalls. And when phone companies block robocalls, they must do so without charging consumers. That should help Americans dodge many of these annoying calls.

"American families deserve control over their communications, and this legislation will update our laws and regulations to stiffen penalties, increase transparency and enhance government collaboration to stop unwanted solicitation," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

The law is a "big victory," said Consumer Reports' Maureen Mahoney. "The key is requiring these phone companies to help stop the calls before they reach the consumer and do it at no additional charge."

The robocall problem has exploded because cheap software makes it easy to make mass calls. Americans collectively get billions of robocalls each month.

Such calls have disrupted operations at hospitals by diverting staff time to deal with calls faked to look as though they are coming from inside the hospital.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

**An anti-robocalls measure signed Monday by President Donald Trump gives authorities more enforcement powers.**

Scams conducted through such calls have also defrauded people out of millions of dollars. Many people now avoid answering calls altogether if they come from unknown numbers.

Another important step is getting rid of "spoofed" numbers, or when a scammer fakes Caller ID to look like it's coming from the same area code or an important government agency like the IRS. The industry is developing a system to tell people when the Caller ID number is real. The new law requires all phone companies to put this system in place.

## Omar's small-dollar fundraising haul sparks inquiry from FEC

By TOREY VAN OOT  
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

The Federal Election Commission has asked for more detail about thousands of donors to Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., who gave less than \$200 each, a group of contributors who poured more than \$800,000 into her reelection bid over a three-month period.

Agency staff sent a letter to Omar's campaign in late November seeking more information about the large share of cash from individuals giving \$200 or less — the maximum allowed before triggering donor disclosure requirements — in her latest quarterly filing. Such contributions accounted for more than 75% of the \$1.1 million Omar re-

ported raising between July and September.

The letter, sent Nov. 26, asked Omar to either amend the filing to identify any donors who exceeded the threshold or affirm that all \$833,961.64 in unitemized contributions came from individuals who gave less than \$200 over the course of the year. Failure to respond, the agency added, could result in an audit or enforcement action.

Omar's campaign responded to the agency in a letter sent last week, saying the committee is aware of the limits and "endeavors to fully comply" with the law. The response, signed by campaign treasurer Kate Wittenstein, adds that contribution tracking software used by the committee

"flags and aggregates such contributions according."

"If for any reason the Committee were to identify any clerical or other reporting errors the Committee will, of course, amend accordingly," Wittenstein wrote.

Omar's campaign had previously said it received contributions from 55,577 donors in the third quarter of 2019, with an average donation of \$14.55. More than 99% of contributions received during the period were under \$200, the campaign said at the time of the October filing.

An FEC spokeswoman confirmed receipt of the letter and said staff could follow up with the committee if they have additional questions or need clarification.



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## NATION

# Trump: Dems avoiding trial to protect Bidsen

By JOHN WAGNER  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday accused Democrats of seeking to avoid an impeachment trial in the Senate to protect Joe Biden and his son Hunter, whose service on the board of a Ukrainian energy company while his father was vice president has come under scrutiny.

Trump weighed in on Twitter as an impasse continued over the timing and scope of an expected Senate trial. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has held back the two articles of impeachment — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — passed this month by the House.

She and Senate Democrats are seeking guarantees that a Senate trial will include several witnesses, notably acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton, who declined to participate in the House impeachment proceedings. Democrats also are pushing for the release of documents relevant to Trump's conduct toward Ukraine that the White House has refused to provide.

"The Democrats will do anything to avoid a trial in the Senate in order to protect Sleepy Joe Biden, and expose the millions and millions of dollars that 'Where's Hunter, & possibly Joe, were paid by companies and countries for doing NOTHING,'" Trump said in his tweet. "Joe wants no part of this mess!"

While records suggest that Hunter Biden was paid lucratively for his service on the board of the Burisma energy company, no evidence has emerged of any wrongdoing. There has also been no evidence that Joe Biden, now a Democratic presidential candidate, was paid in connection with his son's service on the board. As

## Buttigieg: Wouldn't want son on Ukrainian board

Associated Press

FORT MADISON, Iowa — Pete Buttigieg says he "would not have wanted to see" his son serving on the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company while he was leading anti-corruption efforts in the country, an implicit criticism of the controversy that has ensnared his 2020 Democratic presidential rival Joe Biden.

Hunter Biden's position on the board of the company Burisma has been a rallying point for Republicans as they try to defend President Donald Trump against impeachment charges over Trump asking Ukraine's new president to investigate the former vice president and his son while also withholding crucial U.S. military aid.

Buttigieg, the childless

mayor of South Bend, Ind., said in an Associated Press interview Monday that his administration would "do everything we can to prevent even the appearance of a conflict. That's very important because as we see it can create a lot of complications even when there is no wrongdoing."

Still, he insisted that the issues raised about Hunter Biden and his father by Trump and his defenders are a diversionary tactic.

"So, I would not have wanted to see that happen," Buttigieg said when asked how he would have handled a situation like Biden's. "And at the same time, again, I think this is being used to divert attention from what's really at stake in the impeachment process. There's been no allegation, let alone finding of any kind of wrongdoing."

part of his duties as vice president, Joe Biden was heavily involved in U.S. policy toward Ukraine.

As Trump tweeted from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, on New Year's Eve, it remained unclear when a trial might start in the Republican-led Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is insisting that senators hear opening statements by House impeachment managers and lawyers for Trump before deciding whether to allow either side to call witnesses. McConnell has also indicated that it would be fine with him if Pelosi never transmits the articles of impeachment and a trial is not held.

Senate Minority Leader Charles

Schumer, D-N.Y., continued to push his party's case for calling witnesses late Monday night.

"So far, neither Senator McConnell nor any Republican Senator has articulated a single good reason why the trial shouldn't have the witnesses or the documents we requested," he said in a tweet. "The American people deserve to know the truth."

Lawmakers are scheduled to return to Washington next week.

Democrats have argued that the issue of the Bidens' involvement in Ukraine is irrelevant to the question of whether Trump abused his power when he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to launch an investigation into the Bidens.



CHERYL SENTER/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., takes questions from the audience in Newport, N.H., on Sunday. His doctors say he has recovered from his recent heart attack and is fit enough to continue campaigning and serve if elected.

## Doctors: Sanders is fit enough for presidency

By WILL WEISSERT  
AND LAURAN NEBERGARD  
Associated Press

Bernie Sanders suffered "modest heart muscle damage" during his recent heart attack but has since recovered well and is fit enough for the rigors of the presidential campaign trail and the White House should he win it, according to letters released Monday by his primary care physician and two cardiologists.

The 78-year-old Vermont senator is the oldest candidate in the 2020 presidential race and had vowed to release detailed medical records by the end of the year. His campaign did so the day before New Year's Eve, and the letters provide the most detail it has given to date showing that Sanders received prompt treatment to reopen his clogged artery with stents following his heart attack, which occurred while he campaigned in Las Vegas on Oct. 1.

After a first heart attack, standard questions include the likelihood of another and whether the heart's muscle was damaged badly enough to trigger later heart failure. While his heart was dam-

aged, Sanders has had no other symptoms, his blood pressure and heart rate are "in optimal ranges," and his heart is functioning normally, with the ability to exercise "well above average," wrote his cardiologist, Dr. Martin LeWinter, of the University of Vermont Medical Center.

The key test to show that was a treadmill exercise test in which doctors watch for signs of trouble during strong exertion. Sanders' exercise capacity this month was "average" for a healthy man his age without heart disease, and he was able to exercise to a level about 50% higher than men his age who do have heart disease, University of Vermont cardiac rehabilitation chief Dr. Philip Aedes and exercise physiologist Patrick Savage wrote in a separate letter.

"At this point, I see no reason he cannot continue campaigning without limitation and, should he be elected, I am confident he has the mental and physical stamina to fully undertake the rigors of the presidency," LeWinter wrote, also noting that Sanders had made an "uneventful" recovery from his heart attack.

## Biden is asked about sharing 2020 ticket with Republican



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden takes a selfie during a campaign stop in Exeter, N.H., on Monday. When asked, Biden said he would consider a Republican as a running mate.

By HUNTER WOODALL  
Associated Press

EXETER, N.H. — Former Vice President Joe Biden entertained the idea of choosing a Republican as a 2020 running mate as he campaigned Monday — though he conceded he didn't have anyone specific in mind.

A voter told Biden during an event Monday afternoon in Exeter that her son had wondered if the Democratic presidential contender would consider choosing a Republican as a running mate.

"The answer is, I would, but I can't think of one now," Biden said as the crowd laughed.

Biden went on to say there are "some really decent Republicans that are out there still," before adding that "they've got to step up."

At the start of Monday's event, Biden reminded voters his goal is to unite the country.

"I refuse to accept the proposition that we'll be in a state of perpetual war with Republicans, because you can't govern the country if that's the case," Biden said. "We are a democracy, and our democracy depends upon consensus. We have to be able to pull the country together."

Biden is sometimes asked about possible running mates by voters on the campaign trail. During his answer Monday he noted that it was presumptuous to talk about the idea at this point in the campaign.

If he becomes the Democratic nominee, Biden said, he'd want to pick someone "simpatico" with him and his priorities, telling voters there are "a lot of qualified women," and "a lot of qualified African Americans."

"There's a plethora of really qualified people," Biden said.



## NATION

# Firearms instructor shot gunman at Texas church

Associated Press

**WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas** — Alarms went off in Jack Wilson's head the moment a man wearing a fake beard, a wig, a hat and a long coat walked into a Texas church for Sunday services.

By the time the man approached a communion server and pulled out a shotgun, Wilson and another security volunteer were already reaching for their own guns.

The attacker shot the other volunteer, Richard White, and then the server, Anton "Tony" Wallace, sending congregants scrambling for cover. The gunman was heading toward the front of the sanctuary as Wilson searched for a clear line of fire.

"I didn't have a clear window," he said, referring to church members who "were jumping, going

chaotic," Wilson, 71, a firearms instructor who has also been a reserve sheriff's deputy, said: "They were standing up. I had to wait about half a second, or a second, to get my shot. I fired one round. The subject went down."

Wilson's single shot quickly ended the attack that killed Wallace, 64, and White, 67, at the West Freeway Church of Christ in the Fort Worth-area town of White Settlement. He said the entire confrontation was over in no more than six seconds. More than 240 congregants were in the church at the time.

"The only clear shot I had was his head because I still had people in the pews that were not all the way down as low as they could. That was my one shot," Wilson said Monday from his home in nearby Granbury.

As Wilson approached the fallen attacker, he noticed five or

six other members of the volunteer security team he had trained with their guns drawn. Wilson said they had their eyes on the man since he arrived. During the service, White and Wilson had stationed themselves at the back of the church, watching him.

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Monday identified the attacker as Keith Thomas Kinnunen, 43. His motive is under investigation.

Speaking outside the church Monday, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said authorities "can't prevent mental illness from occurring, and we can't prevent every crazy person from pulling a gun. But we can be prepared like this church was."

Britt Farmer, senior minister of the church, said Sunday, "We lost two great men today, but it could have been a lot worse."

Wilson described the attacker's



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

**Stephen Willeford, center, who confronted and exchanged gunfire with the Sutherland Springs church shooter in 2017, joins church and community members gathered outside West Freeway Church of Christ for a candlelight vigil Monday in White Settlement, Texas.**

gun as a short-barreled 12-gauge shotgun with a pistol grip. Shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches long are restricted under federal law and can be legally owned in Texas only if they are registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

After the shooting, Texas officials hailed the state's gun laws, including a measure enacted this year that affirmed the right of li-

censed handgun holders to carry a weapon in places of worship unless the facility bans them.

That law was passed in the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history, which was also at a church. In the 2017 massacre at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, a man who opened fire on a Sunday morning congregation killed more than two dozen people. He later killed himself.

## Officials say Hanukkah attack suspect researched Hitler online

Associated Press

**MONSEY, N.Y.** — A man charged with federal hate crimes Monday in a bloody attack on a Hanukkah celebration had handwritten journals containing anti-Semitic references and had recently used his phone to look up information on Hitler and the location of synagogues, authorities said.

Grafton Thomas, 37, was held without bail after appearing in federal court in White Plains on five counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by attempting to kill with a dangerous weapon. Five people were stabbed and slashed in the Saturday attack north of New York City.

A blood-stained 18-inch machete was recovered from his car, along with a knife smeared with dried blood and hair, prosecutors said in a criminal complaint.

Thomas, his ankles shackled, shuffled into the courtroom in a prison jumpsuit, telling a judge who asked him if his head was clear that he was "not clear at all" and needed sleep. But he added, "I am coherent."

His court-appointed attorney, Susanne Brody, said Thomas has struggled with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Another attorney retained by his family, Michael Sussman, said Thomas had been hearing voices and may have stopped taking psychiatric medications recently.

The stabbings on the seventh night of Hanukkah came amid a series of violent attacks targeting Jews in the region that have led to increased security, particularly



MARK LENNHAUS/AP

**Members of the Guardian Angels, left, a volunteer safety patrol organization, stand in front of the Chabad Lubavitch World Headquarters on Monday in the Brooklyn borough of New York.**

around religious gatherings.

A criminal complaint said journals recovered from Thomas' home in Greenwood Lake included comments questioning "why ppl mourned for anti-Semitism when there is Semitic genocide" and a page with drawings of a Star of David and a swastika.

A phone recovered from his car included repeated internet searches for "Why did Hitler hate the Jews" as well as "German Jewish Temples near me" and "Prominent companies founded by Jews in America," the complaint said.

On the day of the stabbings, the phone's browser was used to access an article titled "New York City Increases Police Presence

in Jewish Neighborhoods After Possible Anti-Semitic Attacks. Here's What To Know," the complaint said.

Sussman told reporters he visited Thomas' home and found stacks of notes he described as "the ramblings of a disturbed individual" but nothing to point to an "anti-Semitic motive" or suggest Thomas intentionally targeted the rabbi's home.

"My impression from speaking with him is that he needs serious psychiatric evaluation," Sussman said. "His explanations were not terribly coherent."

Thomas' family said he was raised to embrace tolerance but has a long history of mental illness.

## GOP lawmakers in 2 states seek to prevent red flag laws on guns

Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan.** — Republicans in two Midwestern states where GOP-controlled legislatures have gun rights majorities are proposing measures aimed at preventing the U.S. government or other states from taking guns away from residents whom the courts deem a danger to themselves.

Neither Oklahoma nor Kansas has red flag laws through which relatives or police can obtain a court order to remove firearms from someone's possession. However, the proposals in those states also would prevent local city and county governments from enacting such laws. They would even go so far as to make it a felony for someone to help enforce such an order.

Sponsors said they were inspired by prospects that Congress might enact such a law or offer federal grants to entice states into putting them on the books.

Supporters of red flag laws say they reduce suicides and gun violence and lessen the risk of mass shootings. Gun rights supporters contend they violate not only the right to own firearms but other constitutional guarantees, such as the right to due legal process, to confront an accuser, and against unreasonable searches and seizures of property.

"There's numerous violations of the Bill of Rights taking place by these red flags laws," said Tulsa-area Republican state Sen. Nathan Dahm, who is sponsoring

Oklahoma's measure.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have some sort of red flag law, with most enacting them starting in 2018, according to groups favoring them and other gun control measures. Interest in Congress appeared to grow after mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas.

Dahm filed his proposal in September, and it may have been the first of its kind. In Kansas, separate but identical measures were introduced in December by members of the state House and Senate. The two states' legislatures would consider them after convening their annual sessions next year.

All three measures declare that any gun-removal order from another state or a federal court are null and void, and no state or local agency could accept federal grants that require such orders to be enforced.

The U.S. Constitution prevents states from nullifying federal laws.

"States generally do not have the ability to tell the federal government, 'Get out of our state and stop enforcing your laws,'" said Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, a Republican gun rights supporter who's not taking a position on the measures. "But states do generally have the ability to tell the federal government, 'You are not able to commandeer state resources and compel us to enforce your laws.'"

## NATION

# In 2019, Florida leads way in weird news

By TAMARA LUSH  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG — In 2019, Florida Banana managed to eclipse Florida Man. From alligator antics to naked people doing wacky things, Florida did not disappoint in the weird news department this year.

(So Many, Naked, People.)  
In December, a Miami couple spent more than \$100,000 on the “unicorn of the art world” — a banana duct-taped to a wall — during Art Basel. The piece was widely copied and mocked on social media, and then someone at the art fair ripped it off the wall and ate it.

Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan sold three editions of “Comedian,” each in the \$120,000 to \$150,000 range.

“We are acutely aware of the blatant absurdity of the fact that ‘Comedian’ is an otherwise inexpensive and perishable piece of produce and a couple inches of duct tape,” one couple that purchased the banana said. “Ultimately, we sense that Cattelan’s banana will become an iconic historical object.”

Florida is known for many things. Sunshine, beaches and oranges. The magic of Disney and the glamour in South Beach. It’s also known for having the most bananas news in the United States.

As they often do, alligators topped the list of odd stories. Perhaps the most visually interesting happened in October, when Paul Bedard, who is contracted with the state’s insurance alligator program, responded to a call of a gator in a swimming pool in Parkland. Bedard “played” with the 8-foot long reptile until it became tired. Then he lifted it out of the water and held it over his head for an Instagram photo.

“I haven’t had a good-sized gator in a swimming pool in probably a year, so I was kind of looking forward to this when I got the call,” he said. The alligator was relocated to a wildlife park.

Humans tangled withigators



Paul Bedard raises a 9-foot alligator over his head at a home in Parkland, Fla., in October.



Gallery owner Emmanuel Perrotin poses next to Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan’s “Comedian” at the Art Basel exhibition in Miami Beach, Fla., earlier this month. The work sold for \$120,000.

in a multitude of other ways. One reptile knocked on a woman’s door the night before Thanksgiving in Fort Myers. In Martin County, two men poured Coors beer into an alligator’s mouth. They were arrested.

Alligators weren’t the only animals making headlines in Florida. In August, a restaurant in Stuart canceled its “Monkey Mondays” when a 9-month-old capuchin named JoJo bit a child’s finger. Also in August, a Lake Worth Beach man began feeding a kinkajou (a raccoon relative with a prehensile tail that’s native to Central and South America), but

one day, it attacked his leg. “It was not a nice kinkajou. It was super aggressive,” the man’s girlfriend told The Palm Beach Post.

And a Labrador retriever somehow got behind the wheel of a car and did doughnuts in Port St. Lucie.

Some claim Florida’s weird news surfaces because of the state’s open public records laws, while others chalk it up to the fact that it’s the third-largest state, with more than 21 million people packed on a peninsula — many wearing scant clothing because of infernal heat most of the year.

Whatever the reason, taking

stock of the year’s strange stories in Florida is a time-honored tradition. This year’s no different, because the unusual is met with a chuckle and shrug precisely because it’s so normal. (Honestly: In 1986, the state’s official tourism slogan was “Florida ... The Rules Are Different Here”).

Consider Patrick Eldridge, of Jacksonville, who parked his tiny Smart Car in his kitchen because he was worried it would blow away during Hurricane Dorian.

The owners of a Port Orange funeral home gave away a free cremation as part of its grand reopening.

A toilet exploded in Port Charlotte when lightning struck the home’s septic tank. No one was injured, and homeowner Marylou Ward expressed relief: “I’m just glad none of us were on the toilet.”

Folks attacked one another with all manner of items, including (but not limited to) pancake batter, Pop-Tarts, a fake Christmas tree, swords, McDonald’s condiment packets and roach spray.

In the city of Port Richey, two mayors were arrested in the span of 20 days — one on charges of obstruction of justice; the other on allegations he was practicing medicine without a license in his home.

Let us think all Floridians are strange, a few did some remarkably kind things.

Chicago Bears linebacker Khalil Mack went to his hometown of Port Pierce and stopped by a Walmart store in December. He paid off all the layaways, to the tune of \$80,000, according to the Chicago Tribune.

A Florida 9-year-old gave his third grade teacher all the feels when he offered his \$15 of birthday money as a solution to the problem of teachers being underpaid.

But it’s the weird that attracts the most attention here. A number of people were nude, or partially nude, when they made the news.

In Polk County in December, a Florida man was “buck naked” when he showed up to the front door of a home where an undercover sex sting operation was being conducted, sheriff’s officials said. A naked Florida man burglarized an elementary school in Apopka and spread feces throughout the building. Cops chased a lot of naked people through parking lots, swamps and stores, too many to list here.

In Miami in March, motorist captured on camera a nearly nude man wearing hot pink socks, sneakers, skimpy underwear and a pink headband, bicycling backward I-95.

As one does.

## Forest ecologist helps refashion Barbie dolls as scientists

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — When Nalini Nadkarni was a kid, she’d run home from school, climb into one of the eight maple trees in her parents’ backyard and spend an afternoon there with an apple and a book.

That time in the treetops set the tone for the rest of her life. She’s now a forest ecologist at the University of Utah who’s dedicated her career to studying rain forest canopies.

She’s also always looking for new ways to get people interested in science, from fashion made with nature imagery to science lectures at the state prison. “I’ve tried for years and years to bring the science I do and understand to people outside of academia,” she said.

Her childhood memories made her particularly interested in reaching children. After her own 6-year-old daughter asked for a Barbie, Nadkarni decided to refashion the iconic

dolls as a scientist-explorer in rubber boots rather than high heels.

“Lots of girls, and some little boys, love Barbie,” Nadkarni said. “It’s almost aspirational, they want to be Barbie.”

That was about 15 years ago. Nadkarni said Barbie-maker Mattel wasn’t interested in the idea then, so she decided to redo dolls herself, using gear she collected. She scoured thrift stores and eBay for Barbie dolls and enlisted help from volunteer seamstresses. She called the creation “Treetop Barbie” and began selling them at cost on her website.

Last year, Mattel began working with National Geographic to create a new line of scientist Barbies. Nadkarni has a long-standing relationship with National Geographic, so when the nonprofit reached out for help, she quickly agreed.

Nadkarni joined a team of female scientists advising Mattel as it made the line of dolls

that includes a marine biologist, astrophysicist, photojournalist, conservationist and entomologist.

Sales began in the summer. As a thank-you, Mattel sent Nadkarni a one-of-a-kind doll with tree-climbing gear and full dark hair woven with strands of white that made the doll resemble the scientist.

For Nadkarni, the company’s investment in the dolls reflects a broader cultural shift toward recognizing women in science, math and technology that could spark an appreciation for science even among kids who don’t end up entering the field.

Mattel said in a statement that the purpose of Barbie dolls for the last 60 years has been to “inspire the limitless potential in every girl,” pointing out that Barbie was portrayed in other science and math-based careers long before the new line.



RECK BOWMAN/AP

Nalini Nadkarni holds a Barbie created to look like her in Salt Lake City earlier this month.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Big buoy missing for 2 years has beached

**FL** NEWSMYRNA BEACH — A big red navigation buoy that bounced along Atlantic waves for two years has beached in Florida, where it's drawing attention.

Crowds of spectators streamed to New Smyrna Beach for a close-up view and some pictures with the buoy navigational marker that some described as "the size of a truck," news outlets reported.

The beacon came from South Carolina and was displaced since 2017, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Dickinson, spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville.

The Coast Guard plans to bring in a crane sometime this week to remove the buoy.

## Officials remove bear from campus stadium

**TN** KNOXVILLE — A 200-pound black bear showed up as a walk-on at the University of Tennessee's baseball stadium but ended up being sent back to its home territory.

A UT police officer notified the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, saying the bear had been wandering around campus and got stuck inside Lindsey Nelson Stadium, according to a post on the agency's official Facebook page.

Sgt. Roy Smith and Wildlife Officer Jeff Roberson were able to tranquilize and remove the bear with the help of UT police.

The officer released the bear into the Foothills Wildlife Management Area in Blount County.

## Couple returns to Dunkin' to take vows

**MA** WORCESTER — A Massachusetts couple reunited for extra-sweet wedding vows at the same Dunkin' Donuts where their young love splintered nearly 30 years ago.

Valerie Sneade and Jason Roy were joined by family, friends and customers buying coffee and pastries at a Dunkin' Donuts in Worcester.

Sneade and Roy mostly didn't see each other for 25 years after a conversation about their future at the same shop in 1992 led the young-in-love couple to step back from their relationship.

When Roy learned Sneade was performing a Valentine's Day-themed musical review in Worcester in February 2018, he showed up and sat in the front row. Roy proposed that New Year's Eve.

## Workers help woman who mouthed 'help me'

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Workers at a McDonald's in northern California helped rescue a woman who mouthed the words "help me" as she pulled up to the drive-thru window.

The woman initially entered the restaurant asking employees to call 911 and urging them to hide her from a reportedly violent man. The San Francisco Chronicle reported.



ERIN BORMETT, THE (SIOUX FALLS, S.D.) ARGUS LEADER/AP

## Chasing snowballs

Atlas jumps for a snowball in Zach Dysart's hand on Sunday at Spencer Park in Sioux Falls, S.D. The rain and snow Sunday brought the year's precipitation total to 39.27 inches, breaking the previous record of 39.17 inches set last year.

The woman then returned to the counter to place an order after using the bathroom but was stopped by the suspect, San Joaquin County deputies said. The man allegedly demanded she return to the car and use the drive-thru where she silently signaled for help at the window, authorities said.

The woman accused the man of threatening to shoot her unless she drove him to see his family, authorities said. The man was arrested for criminal threats, stolen property and felon in possession of a firearm, deputies said.

## Family follows GPS onto snowmobile trail

**NH** CRAWFORD'S PURCHASE — A family was stranded for nearly seven hours in northern New Hampshire after their minivan got stuck on a snowmobile trail.

Two adults and five children from Burlington, Mass., were trying to get from the Bretton Woods ski area to a hotel when their vehicle's GPS directed them to a seasonal road that is open only to snowmobile traffic in winter, according to the New Hampshire Fish and Game department.

The driver, Dattu Prajapati, 45, ignored posted signs about the road closure and continued for several miles before turning around, authorities said. The minivan then slid off the road and

## THE CENSUS

**5** The number of mountain lion attacks on dogs in a central Idaho community in a week. The Idaho State Journal reported a Labrador retriever was attacked near Hailey after its owners let the dog outside in their unfenced backyard. It marked the fifth case in the Wood River Valley in the span of a week, according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Labrador has since recovered and returned home, but at least three other dogs have died.

got stuck in a ditch.

Fish and Game, state police and local rescue crews used an ATV and snowmobile to fetch the family members. Authorities used a special ATV and winch to free the vehicle.

## Creamery fined for dumping milk into river

**OR** SALEM — The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality fined a creamery for river water pollution caused by dumping milk, officials said.

The \$26,574 fine was levied against Organic Valley for dumping by its McMinnville Creamery, The Statesman Journal reported. The creamery discharged 87 gallons of condensed skim milk and 384 pounds of milk solids into a storm drain that leads to a tributary of the South Yamhill River on Jan. 5, the environmental quality department said.

The creamery discharged milk into the same drain June 25, which turned the creek white for

nearly three-quarters of a mile, the department said.

## Another library ends fines for overdue books

**OH** CHARDON — Another Ohio library is moving to a fine-free system, becoming part of a national trend of dropping fines to eliminate barriers to library access.

The Geauga County Public Library in northeastern Ohio eliminated overdue fines beginning Wednesday except for televisions, new video games and Blu-Ray DVDs, The News-Herald reported.

Rather than amassing fines, borrowers will have their cards blocked 21 days after the due date. Returning the overdue items unblocks the card.

## Mom takes selfie instead of recording proposal

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A future mother-in-law tasked with making a phone

recording of her future son-in-law proposing to her daughter apparently missed the moment.

She ended up recording a selfie on her reaction to what she was seeing.

KOB-TV reported Susan Griego somehow took a selfie video of herself watching as Benjamin Steele Bacon proposed to her daughter. She did capture the moment Bacon popped the question to Amber Griego by the penguin exhibit at the Albuquerque Biopark. Her mother admitted she's probably "not very good at photography."

## Art helps city celebrate 150 years in 2020

**MS** TUPELO — A city in northeast Mississippi made a bold statement to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

An art piece consisting of three big red numbers — 1, 5 and 0 — was installed at a park near City Hall in downtown Tupelo. Each is 12 feet tall.

Tupelo was incorporated on July 20, 1870. The city is planning a sesquicentennial celebration on July 20, 2020.

Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Neal McCoy said the big numbers will remain in the park through December 2020 before moving to the permanent location at the Oren Dunn City Museum.

From wire reports



## FACES

## ‘Cats’ set to lose at least \$70 million

Los Angeles Times

Universal Pictures is bracing to lose at least \$70 million after its critically panned movie “Cats” bombed over the holidays, according to a person close to the project.

“Cats” has drawn just \$38.3 million globally so far, including \$17.8 million in the U.S. and Canada, according to Box Office Mojo — a disaster for a big holiday movie based on the Andrew Lloyd Webber hit musical.

The studio expects domestic box office sales to reach at least \$30 million, after production costs of about \$100 million and close to the same amount in marketing costs, according to estimates from those close to the project who were not authorized to comment.

Such losses are a painful reminder of the risky film business and further evidence of the challenges studios face drawing in audiences to theaters, even for features with such as stars as Taylor Swift, Jennifer Hudson and Idris Elba.

Even though this year has set new records for individual movies, it has also delivered other flops, including STX Entertainment’s “Playmobil: The Movie” and Warner Bros.’ “The Goldfinch.”

However unlike other misfires from 2019 such as Fox’s X-Men spinoff “Dark Phoenix” or Paramount’s “Terminator: Dark Fate,” “Cats” isn’t tied to a larger franchise that would be the basis for future sequels and spinoffs.

After “Cats” was released on Dec. 20, executives expressed hope that the movie would eventually reach its target audience during the holidays.

“The story isn’t necessarily over on how ‘Cats’ is going to play domestically,” said Jim Orr, president of domestic distribution at Universal Pictures. “This audience group doesn’t necessarily rush out on opening weekend.”

A loss of \$70 million for Universal would not rank among Hollywood’s biggest write-offs, which include a \$200 million hit taken by Disney in 2012 for the movie “John Carter.”

One rival executive privately pointed to Universal Pictures’ release strategy, such as its choice of trailers that became a laughingstock on social media. A person close to the project cited Oscar-winning director Tom Hooper’s last-minute tinkering with the film.

The studio also had to revise the movie to fix special effects snafus, such as the appearance of Judi Dench’s hand in one scene.

After “The Rise of Skywalker” at “Little Women,” 2019 is closing the year out at \$11.23 billion in the U.S. and Canada, down 4.4% from last year’s record levels, according to Comscore. That’s despite massive hits from Disney, including “Avengers: Endgame,” the highest-grossing global title ever (not adjusting for inflation), “Lion King” and “Frozen 2.”



## More ‘Surviving’ to come

This time, R. Kelly will be in jail when docuseries airs

BY MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

Few TV documentary series can boast having a more powerful real-world impact than “Surviving R. Kelly.”

Though allegations of sexual abuse against minors followed R&B superstar R. Kelly for years, it was a six-part series aired by Lifetime last January featuring testimonials by alleged survivors that sparked new attention from authorities.

A year later, Lifetime is reading a follow-up series, “Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning,” with one major difference: this time, R. Kelly will be behind bars when it airs.

Brie Miranda Bryant, senior vice president of unscripted development at Lifetime, said the new series takes a wider and deeper look at some of the issues the first one raised. The first had 54 interviews; the follow-up has almost 70.

“It’s not really about R. Kelly. It’s about sexual violence against women in general and how we change that dialogue,” she said.

“Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning” will premiere Jan. 2 stateside on Lifetime. The six-hour series will run for two hours a night for three consecutive nights.

The new series includes interviews with two alleged survivors who haven’t spoken out publicly before and includes Tiffany Hawkins, the first alleged survivor who filed sexual charges. Other new voices include music executive Damon Dash, Beyoncé’s father Mathew Knowles, lawyer Gloria Allred and Illinois prosecutor Kimberly M. Fox.

One new voice is Jimmy Maynes, a veteran artist manager and former Jive Records executive who represents artists including Salt-N-Pepa. That groundbreaking hip-hop group toured with R. Kelly and Maynes was initially approached by the documentary makers about what he witnessed on the road.

“I had not physically seen R. Kelly with any underage children, however I did feel like there was a high probability that things had been going on behind closed doors that I would not have approved of,” Maynes said.

While not a direct witness, Maynes does talk about being asked by Jive Records in 2002 to go to Chicago and buy up all the VHS and DVDs he could find that allegedly showed R. Kelly engaging in sexual acts with an underage girl. He said he later confronted the superstar, who claimed the man in the video was his twin brother. He has no twin.

Maynes also offers a critical look at the music industry, which he argues creates a culture that gives superstars like R. Kelly unquestioned authority. He hopes the music industry learns to reform itself and not surround its stars with enablers. “R. Kelly was responsible for keeping the lights on at the label. There’s a particular amount of manipulation that goes with that territory. So I think the music industry should hold some responsibility,” he said.

An estimated 26 million people saw all or some of the original Lifetime documentary series that brought together dozens of people who accused the singer of sexual misconduct and kidnapping.

The series faced backlash and finger-pointing. Some blamed the music industry. Some blamed the media and law enforcement for ignoring the alleged conduct because the victims were black women. Some blamed the parents of the alleged victims for not doing enough.

“It just felt like a ton of finger-pointing without real answers. We wanted to be able to answer those questions as best as possible,” Bryant said. Kelly, 52, is currently in jail, scheduled to stand trial in Cook County in September, then in federal court in Chicago in April and again in federal court in New York in February.

Kelly has denied all the allegations related to sexual assault with minors, but the #MuteRKelly movement has damaged his financial stability. He did himself few favors when he portrayed himself as a victim in a combative interview with Gayle King in which he pounded his chest and yelled into the camera.

Bryant said the indictments against R. Kelly were never the goal of the series. She said some alleged survivors want restorative justice, some want apologies. “Justice looks like a lot of different things for a lot of people,” she said.

Lifetime plans a follow-up series to its 2019 six-part on musician R. Kelly, shown leaving a Chicago courthouse June 6. The new series is “Surviving R. Kelly Part II: The Reckoning.”

AMR ALRKY/AP

## ‘Murder Mystery,’ ‘Stranger Things,’ most popular on Netflix in 2019

Bloomberg

Netflix, touting the success of its original programming, said the most popular releases on its streaming service in 2019 were things it produced: the comedy movie “Murder Mystery” and the third season of its 1980s sci-fi show “Stranger Things.”

The company on Monday disclosed lists of its top 10 programs in 33 countries, offering the most expansive report to date of what is being watched on the world’s most popular online TV network.

Netflix’s ‘86 Underground,’ the Michael Bay-directed action movie, and its monster-hunting fantasy “The Witcher” also drew large U.S. audiences.

Netflix, which once filled its service with shows and movies from other studios, is now relying more than ever on its own programming to keep viewers loyal. Partners such as Walt Disney Co. are taking back their properties to feed their own streaming services. Disney’s platform launched in November, and ones from Comcast Corp.’s NBCUniversal and Netflix’s WarnerMedia are due in coming months.

Netflix still relied on some Disney material to fill out its lineup in 2019. In fact, “Incredibles 2,” the animated movie from Disney’s Pixar unit, was Netflix’s third-most-popular new film for the year.

The data is both revealing and limited. No outside party verified the lists, which Netflix based on viewership in the first 28 days after a show was released. The numbers count people who watched at least two minutes of a program, and Netflix relied on projections to calculate the popularity of shows and movies that were just released in December.

Because Netflix has provided so little data over the years, the lists offer some rare insight into what works on the service.

Netflix’s original movies and shows dominated across every category in both the U.S. and abroad. “Murder Mystery,” which stars Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, was the No. 1 program in nine countries, including Australia and Colombia.

## Frequent Monty Python collaborator Innes dies

Comedic writer and actor Neil Innes, who created a Beatles parody group called the Rutles and frequently worked with the members of Monty Python, died Sunday night of natural causes at age 75, his agent, Nigel Monson, said. Innes was such a frequent collaborator of the Monty Python troupe that he sometimes was called the “seventh Python.” A musician as well as a writer, he wrote songs for the popular film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail,” appeared in “Life of Brian” and toured the U.K. and Canada with the group.

From The Associated Press

## WORLD

## Fires trap 4K Australians

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Wildfires burning across Australia's two most populous states on Tuesday trapped residents of a seaside town in apocalyptic conditions, destroyed many properties and caused at least two fatalities.

About 12.35 million acres of land have burned nationwide during the wildfire crisis, with 12 people confirmed dead and more than 1,000 homes destroyed.

The annual Australian fire season, which peaks during the Southern Hemisphere summer, started early after an unusually warm and dry winter. Record-breaking heat and windy conditions triggered wildfires in New South Wales and Queensland states in September.

In the southeastern town of Mallacoota in Victoria state, around 4,000 residents fled toward the waterside as winds pushed an emergency-level wildfire toward their homes. The town was shrouded in darkness from the smoke before turning an unnerving shade of bright red.

Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said there were plans to evacuate the trapped people by



AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORP., CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 7/AP

**Officials block Princes Highway as wildfires approach in South Coast, New South Wales, Australia, on Tuesday. Wildfires are burning across Australia's two most populous states.**

sea. There also were grave fears for four people missing. "We can't confirm their whereabouts," Andrews told reporters Tuesday.

Andrews has requested assistance from 70 firefighters from the United States and Canada.

Police in New South Wales said Tuesday that two men, believed to be father and son, died in a house

in the wildfire-ravaged southeast town of Cobargo, while there are fears for another man missing.

On Monday, a firefighter was killed when extreme winds flipped his truck. Samuel McPaul, 28, was the third volunteer firefighter in New South Wales to have died in the past two weeks. He was an expectant father.

## US, German, Israeli envoys weigh in on Russian WWII claims

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA  
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The U.S., German and Israeli ambassadors in Warsaw weighed in Monday against claims by Russian President Vladimir Putin that Poland bears part of the blame for the outbreak of World War II.

"Dear President Putin, Hitler and Stalin colluded to start WWII. That is a fact. Poland was a victim of this horrible conflict," Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher said on Twitter in English and Polish.

The Russian Embassy countered with a tweet saying, "Dear Ambassador, do you really think that you know about history any more than you do about diplomacy?"

World War II began on Sept. 1, 1939, when Nazi German troops invaded Poland. Two weeks later, the Soviet Red Army also attacked embattled Poland from the east, in what Poles still refer to as a "stab in the back." Days earlier, Germany and Russia had signed a pact with a secret pro-

toocol to carve up Poland and the Baltic states between themselves. Some 6 million Poles lost their lives during the whole of WWII.

Recently, Putin has argued that collusion between Western powers and Adolf Hitler paved the way for World War II. He also cast Poland as an anti-Semitic country that welcomed Hitler's plans to destroy Europe's Jews.

German Ambassador Rolf Nikel and Israeli Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi took a stand Monday to blame the war's outbreak on the August 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact.

Polish historian Mariusz Wołos told the Onet portal that Putin is aiming at "creating discord between Poland and the U.S. and the international Jewish diaspora." He said Putin is trying to erase Stalin's alliance with Hitler from history.

British historian Roger Moorehouse tweeted to say that Putin's words "provoked a much better popular understanding of the pact's true nefarious nature and significance."

**Stripes**  
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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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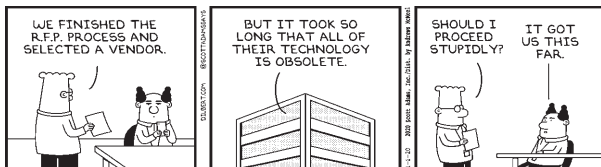
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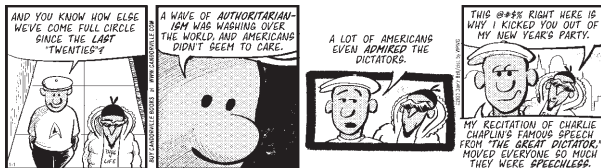
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



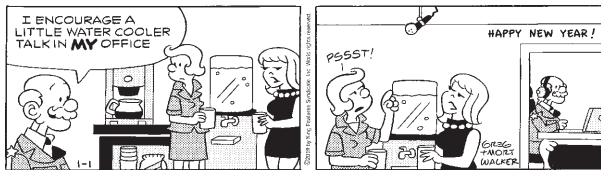
Candorville



Carpe Diem



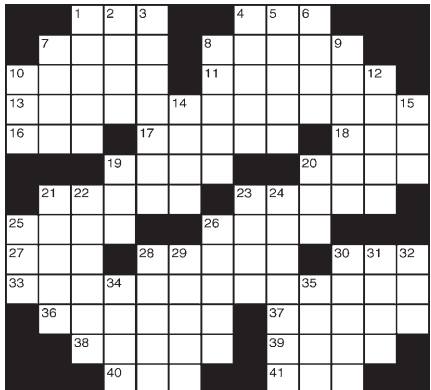
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- Grazing land
- Danson of "Cheers"
- "Breaking Bad" actress Anna
- Bit of gossip
- James Bond portrayer Daniel
- Martini garnishes
- Perfume variety
- Ambulance initials
- Grating
- Actor McShane
- Bloke
- Incite
- Gulf War missiles
- Binge
- Stadium cheers
- Songs for one
- Equal (Pref.)
- Very small
- Historic time
- Roy Orbison hit
- "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- Alpha's opposite
- In progress
- Rowboat needs

## DOWN

- Waikiki windings
- Oklahoma city
- Ticked off
- Dutch bloom
- Poet Dickinson
- Peace symbol
- Metric measure
- Perch
- Go to bed
- Middling grade
- Play place
- Catches some rays
- Away from WSW
- Gloomy guy
- Swiss canton
- Malia's sister
- "Quantum Healing" author Deepak
- Electronics giant
- Flooring material
- Carnival city
- Attack
- Rockies range
- Group character
- Nail smoother
- Alger's "before"
- Santa — winds
- Mortgage again, for short
- Sharif of "Funny Girl"

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-1

## CRYPTOQUIP

FJLRWXU KLYWRXS LY RXTJLSF  
SBXS ONM RXI NIUO  
JTNRMTL SBTNMAB  
JBXTKXRWFSF: JTLFRTWJSWNI  
TMAF.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF SICK FOLKS RECEIVE TREATMENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM DOCTORS, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY ARE ILL-ADVISED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals C



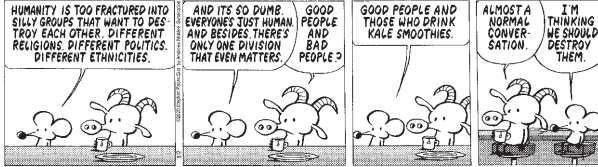
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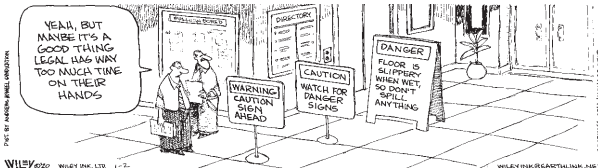
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



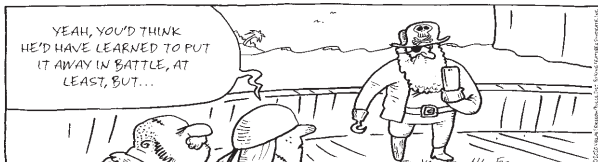
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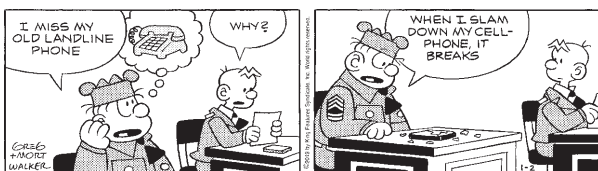
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Carpe Diem



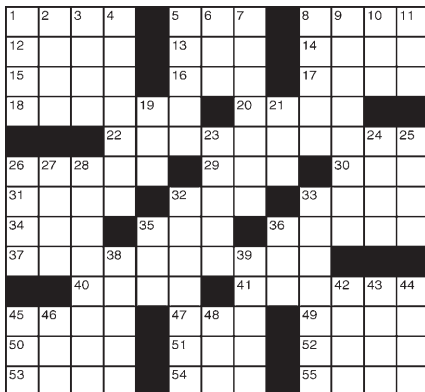
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Papa's mate
- 5 Designer Claiborne
- 8 Not many
- 12 Bedouin
- 13 Inventor Whitney
- 14 Deep cut
- 15 Has a bug
- 16 Solidify
- 17 Division word
- 18 Rum cocktail
- 20 "Damn Yankees" vamp
- 22 Wife of Louis XVI
- 26 Unspoken
- 29 Menagerie
- 30 Charged bit
- 31 Clair
- 32 Heavy weight
- 33 Kilt wearer
- 34 R-V link
- 35 Harry Potter pal
- 36 Green sauce
- 37 Shadowy outline
- 40 Antelope's playmate
- 41 Art props
- 45 Olympian queen
- 47 Savings plan acronym
- 49 With (Fr.)
- 50 Borodin's "Prince —"
- 51 Polite address

### DOWN

- 2 Drunkard
- 3 Puts on
- 4 QB's goals
- 5 Leisurely
- 6 Polite address
- 7 La Scala solo
- 8 Niger's neighbor
- 9 Refrain (from)
- 10 On the up and up
- 11 —de-France
- 12 Ginormous number
- 13 Limber
- 14 Enthusiasts
- 15 Superlative suffix
- 16 One of the five W's
- 17 Picnic crasher
- 21 Lennon's love
- 23 Ultraviolet filter
- 24 Horn sound
- 25 Within (Pref.)
- 26 Hardy lass
- 27 Choir voices
- 28 Witch's pot
- 29 Sightseer
- 30 Playground sights
- 35 Caviar base
- 36 Bake sale org.
- 38 Gets wind of
- 39 Eye drops
- 42 Satan's forte
- 43 Carson's successor
- 44 Garbage barge
- 45 Stashed
- 46 Swelled head
- 48 Abolish

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 1-2

### CRYPTOQUIP

MDNYFGD H VHGEHXD PYJJHIU

RI VRRPG, H LRGSEC PHIU

VRRPMDEEG. CDG, H'L JPDSSC

HI-XIRNX-FRFG.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: SPECIAL MEDICATED CARPETS THAT YOU CAN ONLY PROCURE THROUGH PHARMACISTS: PRESCRIPTION RUGS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals B

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## Who will win the 2020 election? Don't ask.

By DOYLE MCMANUS  
Los Angeles Times

Ten months ago, I gave readers of this column an early preview of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Keep an eye on the new faces, I sagely advised: Sens. Kamala Harris, of California; Cory Booker, of New Jersey; and Sherrod Brown, of Ohio, plus former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, of Texas.

Sorry about that. Despite a fawning cover story in Vanity Fair, O'Rourke flamed out fast. Harris staged an impressive launch, but then fell to Booker. Brown never entered the race. Only Boker is still running, and his campaign is on life support.

Next time I recommend a hot technology stock or a soon-to-be-famous restaurant, ignore the tip.

At the end of each year, I look back at my columns to see what I got wrong — and what, if anything, I got right.

It's a humbling exercise, but a useful one. Unlike politicians, journalists are duty-bound to admit their errors in public — not just the small ones, like misspelled names, but big ones, too. You can't learn from mistakes if you don't acknowledge them.

And there's one easy way to get things wrong in a presidential campaign: by trying to forecast the outcome.

It's almost impossible to resist the temptation. Answering "beats me" never impresses anyone, even though it's often the most accurate response.

We surround our forecasts with caveats — "the race is wide open," "early polls don't mean much" — to give the customers what they want: not predictions, exactly, but our best guesses as to where the campaign is going. But primary campaigns are notoriously unpredictable. At

this point in the 2008 campaign, Rudy Giuliani led polls for the Republican nomination. Four years later, Newt Gingrich led the GOP polls. Neither won.

In early 1970, to my conventional-wisdom-addicted brain, Joe Biden appeared to be a commanding candidate if he survived controversies over his past positions on school desegregation, crime laws and the invasion of Iraq. But Biden's real problem was his historical baggage; it was his tendency to sound like a 20th-century candidate lost in a 21st-century debate.

I recently wrote that Biden still tops national polls because so many Democrats think he's the most electable of their candidates. But this time I hedged, noting that the perception could change overnight if Biden is shellacked in Iowa and New Hampshire.

I didn't see Pete Buttigieg coming. The 37-year-old gay mayor of a small city? Inconceivable, I thought. Iowa voters may shortly prove me wrong.

I did see Elizabeth Warren coming. Her focus on plans to make the economy work better for the middle class was effective, I wrote. Then Warren stumbled on health care. When she belatedly offered a plan, it proposed a government-run health insurance system, but only after a long transition period. That seemed smart, I wrote.

It's not clear that voters agree.

To be fair, I did get some things right. I figured out that the controversies over Biden's verbal gaffes were a polite proxy for questions about his age. He'll be 78 on Inauguration Day; is he up to the job?

I noted that most Democratic voters aren't Bernie Sanders-style socialists, and that the progressive "blue tests" that dominated early months of the campaign — "Medicare for All," the Green New Deal and abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency — weren't a

sure path to winning primaries.

And I got some things right on the other big political story of the year: the impeachment of President Donald Trump.

I wrote last February that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, and her Democrats were heading in that direction. "Call this phase 'pre-impeachment,'" I wrote. "Pelosi and her committee chairs, all Democrats, are doing what they need to do to make impeaching Trump possible." They were mostly just waiting for an impeachable offense to come along. Once it did, in the form of Trump's self-incriminating telephone call with the president of Ukraine, readers should not have been surprised that the Democrats moved as quickly as they did.

It's easy to forecast the likely verdict of an impeachment trial in the Senate. With 53 Republicans on the jury, Trump is in little danger of conviction. The tougher question is what impact impeachment will have on the presidential election. Trump says he thinks it will help him. I wrote that it could help the Democrats instead.

At the time, President Barack Obama's former adviser, thinks it won't have much impact — that by November, voters will have largely forgotten a trial that happened in January. He's probably right.

Campaign reporting is at its best when we investigate the candidates, their histories and their proposals, and when we talk to voters to learn what they think. We're at our worst when we make forecasts without warning how fallible we are.

In 2020, I hope you'll return to this column for the reporting, the analysis and the occasional insight. Just don't ask me who's going to win.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

## Why electric cars still don't live up to the hype

By CHARLES LANE  
The Washington Post

With a new decade starting shortly, it's time for conscientious columnists to undergo their self-administered decennial performance reviews.

I'll start — and try to keep it focused. For the past 10 years, I've waged a quixotic counteroffensive against electric-car boosterism, raining skepticism on the vehicles' potential to cure climate change, much less to be the clean, green wave of the transportation future. More than a few people (my Tesla-owner friends were much included) have questioned this fixation, and I freely admit it's an odd one. I just figured that someone in an otherwise credulous press had to sort through the cloud of wishful thinking, political rhetoric and sheer commercial hype surrounding this subject, and it might as well be me.

Mass adoption of electric cars, however, cannot occur unless they can do everything gas-powered vehicles can do — including being able to go the distance of miles before refueling, and refueling easily — at a comparable total cost of ownership. Otherwise, electric cars will be a niche product for upper-income folks. And government subsidies for them will be a regressive transfer of social resources in return for little social benefit, given that the U.S. petroleum grid the cars draw from is 64% fueled by coal and gas.

Nothing happened in the past decade to undermine this basic critique. Government, both federal and state, subsidized electric-car sales and production to the tune of several billion dollars, yet as of March 2019, there were 1.18 mil-

lion electric vehicles on the road in the United States — less than one-half of 1% of the total. Households earning \$100,000 or more per year own two-thirds of EVs, with many of the owners benefiting from a \$7,500 federal tax credit.

Globally, electric-car adoption is also modest relative to optimistic forecasts. Of the 86 million cars sold in the top 54 world markets in 2018, 1.26 million, or 1.5%, were EVs. That's nowhere near then-Nissan chief executive Carlos Ghosn's 2010 projection that EVs would account for 10% of global sales by 2020.

My biggest error, in hindsight, was to underestimate the financial staying power of Elon Musk's cash-burning Tesla Motors, which I thought would exhaust investors' patience long before it conquered the market of mass-produced luxury vehicles. Tesla's Model 3 is the most popular electric car on the market, with 111,000 sold in the first nine months of 2019. Owners swear by it.

Tesla's survival, though, may be the exception that proves the rule. (And we'll see how the House of Representatives handles that tax credit to lapse.) Ballyhooed startups such as Coda, THINK and Fisker all went bankrupt before 2015 — Fisker after defaulting on an Energy Department loan at an ultimate cost to taxpayers of \$139 million. Chevrolet discontinued its Volt, a plug-in hybrid, after only two years, after about 150,000 since the car launched in 2011. That same year, President Barack Obama had set a goal of having 1 million plug-in vehicles on the road by 2015.

But wait. What about recent reports that Volkswagen is making big new investments in electric cars? Fiat's announcement of a new all-electric Mustang crossover? GM,

Chevy's parent company, says it, too, is preparing a new generation of EVs.

Established automakers are indeed about to ramp up electric offerings, providing Tesla with its most serious competition yet. They are doing so, however, more as a response to regulatory pressure from governments — even after the Trump administration scaled back fuel economy standards — than as a response to demonstrated customer demand, which lately has favored gas-powered SUVs and pickups.

There's one more reason why leaders' knowledge in their quieter moments, is still the same: getting the total cost of owning an EV down to that of a gas equivalent. There's uncertainty about key variables such as how much more battery costs will fall and the global supply of rare-earth elements.

GM President Mark Reuss recently wrote that EV-gas cost parity may happen "within a decade." Honda CEO Takahiro Hachigo told Automotive News Europe, "I do not believe there will be a dramatic increase in demand for battery vehicles, and I don't believe there is a true global race."

A mid-2018 report by JPMorgan Asset Management noted that the median global forecast by industry experts is 125 million EVs on the road worldwide by 2030, which would be less than 10% of the total. "I'm taking a 'no' rather than the 'over,'" the report's author, Michael Cembalest, added.

Me too. Let's reconvene in 10 years to see who wins that wager, and to assess the true costs and benefits of the bet that big government and big business have placed on the electric car.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

paint.



NFL

# Jaguars keep Marrone, Caldwell despite losses

By MARK LONG  
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars are retaining coach Doug Marrone and general manager Dave Caldwell despite consecutive losing seasons.

Owner Shad Khan made the announcement Tuesday after “positive meetings” with Marrone, Caldwell, their staffs and several players.

“This is not the time to consider an overhaul of our organization,” Khan said.

Marrone and Caldwell have two years remaining on their contracts, and Khan made it clear that expectations are high for 2020.

Jacksonville has two first-round draft picks, Nos. 9 and 20 overall, to help rebuild a roster that lacks talent and depth. Rookies Gardner Minshew, Josh Allen and Jawaan Taylor are a few of the building blocks in place for Marrone and Caldwell moving forward.

But there are plenty of holes, especially if the Jaguars part ways with several expensive veterans to create salary cap space.

Khan fired top executive Tom Coughlin two weeks ago, identifying the old-school coach’s overbearing ways as the main problem. Coughlin’s heavy-handed approach upset players, with cornerback Jalen Ramsey forcing his trade to the Los

Angeles Rams, as well as some assistants. Coughlin had difficulty making the transition from the sideline to the front office.

Coughlin’s position as executive vice president of football operations will not be filled. Marrone and Caldwell will report directly to Khan.

“I want to see what we produce under a new organizational structure in 2020,” Khan said. “Goals have been established. Accountability will be paramount.”

Khan expressed his disappointment with the team’s 6-10 season. Jacksonville was 4-4 and in the hunt in the AFC South before losing five straight and falling out of playoff contention. The Jags responded by losing all five by at least 17 points.

Marrone is 23-28 in three seasons, including 11-21 following a trip to the 2017 AFC title game. Marrone has expressed his frustration with the roster, much of which Coughlin put together, but knows there are enough pieces in place to be more competitive. Jacksonville lost seven games by double digits this season.

The slide began in the offseason. The Jaguars had to cut several good players, including defensive tackle Malik Jackson and safety Tashaun Gipson, after botching the quarterback position again. Caldwell chose Blake Bortles with the third overall pick in the 2014 draft, and even though the quarterback showed more struggles than



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

Jaguars head coach Doug Marrone directs his players against the Colts during Sunday’s game in Jacksonville, Fla. Marrone will remain the team’s coach next season.

strides, Caldwell and Coughlin gave him a three-year extension worth \$54 million.

Jacksonville released Bortles in March, leaving the team with a \$16.5 million dead-money hit on the 2019 salary cap, and signed former Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles to a four-year, \$98 million deal.

Foles broke his left collarbone in the opener, missed eight games and was benched in his third game back. Minshew was one of several bright spots, going 6-6 in 12 starts and becoming just the 14th rookie in NFL history — and first drafted after the fourth round — to throw at least 20 touchdowns passes.

But the Jaguars have significant holes at tight end, receiver, linebacker, safety and defensive tackle.

STARS AND STRIPES

NFL CHALLENGE

HALL OF FAME



Top Scores for Week 17

56	gbpack	Europe
55	Songtanpack	Pacific
54	jeanfontenot	United States
52	Lek-cellent	Pacific
51	cowboy48	United States
49	KINGKAPP	Pacific
47	syxela	United States
45	Tnewell99	Europe
44	PurplePeopleEaters	Pacific
43	Park Avenue	Europe

Top 10 Overall Scores

1428	gbpack	Europe
1417	PurplePeopleEaters	Pacific
1395	Park Avenue	Europe
1393	jeanfontenot	United States
1387	KILDRIVR	United States
1386	820th Horseman	Middle East
1382	armydude1212	Pacific
1371	cowboy48	United States
1369	gobrownies43	Europe
1368	scober75	United States

THANK YOU FOR PLAYING

## NBA/NHL



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, left, shoots over Chicago Bulls forward Lauri Markkanen. Antetokounmpo had 23 points and 10 rebounds in the Bucks' 123-102 win at Chicago.

## NBA roundup

## Antetokounmpo backs Bucks' win over Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 23 points and 10 rebounds after missing two games with a sore back, and the Milwaukee Bucks pulled away in the second half for a 123-102 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

Antetokounmpo, the NBA's second-leading scorer with an average of 30.5 points per game entering this one, played only 27 minutes and sat out the final 5½ because of the lopsided score. He was 8-for-14 from the field with six assists.

Chris Middleton scored 25 points for the Bucks and Eric Bledsoe had 15 points in 16 minutes after missing the previous eight games with a fractured right leg. Milwaukee improved to a league-best 30-5.

Zach LaVine scored 19 points for the Bulls but shot just 7-for-23 from the field.

**Wizards 123, Heat 105:** Jordan McRae scored a season-high 29 points, Garrison Mathews had a career-high 28 and Ian Mahinmi added a career-best 25 as depleted Washington beat visiting Miami.

With the Wizards (10-22) minus All-Star shooting guard Bradley Beal and five other key members of their rotation, they got huge contributions from an unexpected trio. McRae, a third-year player, Mathews, in his 11th NBA game, and Mahinmi, a 13-year veteran, enjoyed nights to remember against the Heat (24-9), which had its five-game winning

streak snapped. The Heat entered with the second-best record in the East and lost for just the third time in 20 games against conference opponents.

**Suns 122, Trail Blazers 116:** Devin Booker scored 33 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. had 29 and Phoenix rallied to win at Portland.

After trailing by 19, the Suns roared back to win their second consecutive game and hand the Trail Blazers their fourth straight defeat.

**Jazz 104, Pistons 81:** Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points and Jordan Clarkson added 20 to lead host Utah over Detroit.

Rudy Gobert added 13 points and 19 rebounds for the surging Jazz, and Bojan Bogdanovic scored 17. Utah won for the eighth time in nine games.

**Timberwolves 122, Nets 115 (OT):** Shabazz Napier scored a season-high 24 points, Jarrett Culver added 21 and short-handed Minnesota rallied past visiting Brooklyn in overtime.

The Timberwolves had lost 12 of 13 and were again without injured Karl-Anthony Towns and Al Andrew Higgins. Gorgui Dieng started in Towns' place and had 11 points and 20 rebounds.

**Hawks 101, Magic 93:** Brandon Goodwin scored 21 points, Kevin Hueter added 19 and Atlanta won at Orlando to end a 10-game skid.

Playing without injured guard Trae Young (ankle) for the second straight game, the Hawks trailed by 18 during the first half but rallied in the third quarter.

## NBA scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
Boston	22	8	.733
Philadelphia	23	12	.657 1½
Toronto	22	11	.682 1½
Brooklyn	16	16	.500
New York	9	24	.273 14½

Southeast Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
Miami	9	7	.727
Orlando	14	19	.424 10
Charlotte	13	22	.371 12
Washington	10	22	.313 13½
Atlanta	12	27	.206 17½

Central Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	30	5	.857 —
Indiana	21	12	.636 8
Chicago	13	21	.382 16½
Chicago	12	23	.353 17½
Cleveland	10	22	.313 18½

## Western Conference

Southwest Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
Houston	22	11	.667 — ½
Dallas	11	11	.500 6
San Antonio	13	18	.419 8
Memphis	13	21	.382 9½
New Orleans	11	23	.324 11½

Northwest Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
Denver	13	9	.719 — 2½
Utah	21	12	.636 2½
Oklahoma City	17	15	.531 6
Portland	14	20	.412 10
Minnesota	12	20	.375 11

Pacific Division			
GP	W	L	Pct
L.A. Lakers	16	7	.788 —
L.A. Clippers	23	11	.676 3½
Phoenix	13	20	.394 13
Sacramento	12	21	.354 14
Golden State	9	25	.265 17½

Sunday's games			
Oklahoma City 98, Toronto 97			
Memphis 117, Charlotte 94			
New Orleans 127, Houston 112			
Denver 120, Sacramento 115			

Monday's games			
Atlanta 101, Dallas 95			
Washington 123, Miami 105			
Minnesota 122, Brooklyn 115, OT			
Milwaukee 123, Chicago 102			
Utah 104, Detroit 81			

Tuesday's games			
Boston at Charlotte			
Philadelphia at Indiana			
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento			
Cleveland at Toronto			
Denver at Houston			
Phoenix State at San Antonio			
Dallas at Oklahoma City			

Wednesday's games			
Orlando at Washington			
Portland at New York			
Minnesota at Milwaukee			
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers			

Thursday's games			
Charlotte at Cleveland			
Denver at Indiana			
Toronto at Miami			
Golden State at Minnesota			
Utah at Chicago			
Brooklyn at Dallas			
Oklahoma City at San Antonio			
Memphis at Sacramento			
Detroit at L.A. Clippers			

## Malkin's 2 goals spark Penguins' rout of Senators

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Evgeni Malkin's goal in the first minute sparked the Pittsburgh Penguins to a victory that ended with distressing thud.

Malkin scored twice but teammate Jake Guentzel was injured right after getting his 20th goal of the season in the Penguins' 5-2 win Monday night over the Ottawa Senators.

Guentzel had a three-point night but left after scoring 6:55 into the third period. Guentzel, who was selected to his first All-Star Game on Monday, tapped one into a partially empty net off Malkin's feed, then crashed hard into the wall following contact with Ottawa's Thomas Chabot.

Guentzel immediately went to the dressing room after getting his 200th career point.

"I hope he's not out long," Malkin said. "It didn't look good. But everyone understands it's hockey. It's tough. I need to play better next game if Jake doesn't play."

Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said he may have an update on Guentzel.

"It was really scary," Sullivan said. "Those are always dangerous when you fall that distance from the boards. He's being evaluated. We'll probably have more information on him (Tuesday)."

Malkin stretched his points streak to six games. He has seven goals and 24 points in his past 13 contests. Patric Hornqvist and Dominik Simon also scored the Penguins, who have won three straight and 10 of 12.

Tristan Jarry stopped 24 shots to win his sixth straight game. He has won eight of his last nine starts and allowed no more than two goals in 14 of 18 appearances this season.

Nick Paul scored twice for the Senators, who ended a five-game points streak. Paul has three goals in his last two games.

Marcus Högberg made 28 saves for the Senators.

"We were unable to contain their top guys," Senators coach D.J. Smith said. "Defensively in our zone and off the rush, Malkin just kind of ate us up tonight."

Pittsburgh has won 14 of 22 games without captain Sidney Crosby, who has been out since November because of core muscle surgery. Crosby has recently started skating.

In 140 career games without Crosby, Malkin has 75 goals and 192 points. In 20 games without Crosby this season, Malkin has 11 goals and 32 points.

Malkin opened the scoring 27 seconds into the game when he

## NHL scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	40	24	7	9	57	136 102
Toronto	40	21	14	5	47	142 131
Florida	38	20	13	5	45	138 130
Tampa Bay	37	20	13	4	44	131 116
Montreal	39	18	15	6	42	130 128
Buffalo	40	17	16	7	41	117 125
Ottawa	40	16	19	5	37	111 132
Detroit	40	9	28	3	21	87 157

Metropolitan Division						
Washington	40	27	8	5	59	143 118
Pittsburgh	39	24	11	4	52	136 104
N.Y. Islanders	37	24	10	3	51	110 97
Philadelphia	39	22	12	5	49	124 113
Carolina	39	23	14	2	48	133 111
N.Y. Rangers	38	19	15	4	42	124 125
Columbus	38	17	14	8	42	101 111
New Jersey	38	13	19	6	32	99 136

Western Conference							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	40	26	8	6	58	127	104

Colorado	39	23	12	4	50	140	112
Dallas	40	22	12	4	48	107	101
Winnipeg	39	21	15	3	45	118	116
Minnesota	40	19	16	5	43	125	133
Nashville	38	18	14	6	42	132	127
Chicago	40	17	17	6	40	113	129
<b>Pacific Division</b>							
Vegas	42	21	15	6	48	129	123

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games			
St. Louis 5, Columbus 2, SO			
New Jersey 4, Ottawa 3, OT			
N.Y. Islanders 3, Minnesota 1			
Boston 3, Buffalo 2			
Florida 6, Montreal 5			
Tampa Bay 2, Detroit 1			
Dallas 4, Arizona 2			
Philadelphia 2, Anaheim 1, OT			
Vancouver 5, Calgary 2			

Monday's games			
Pittsburgh 5, Ottawa 2			
Boston at Vegas			
N.Y. Islanders at Washington			
Anaheim at New Jersey			
Toronto at Minnesota			
Tampa Bay at Buffalo			
Montreal at Carolina			
Columbus at San Jose			
San Jose at Detroit			
Winnipeg at Colorado			
N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton			
Chicago at Calgary			
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles			
Philadelphia at Los Angeles			
Nashville at Dallas			

Tuesday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Wednesday's games			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Thursday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Friday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Saturday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Sunday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Monday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Tuesday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

Wednesday's games			
Columbus at Boston			
Edmonton at Buffalo			
Tampa Bay at Montreal			
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders			
San Jose at Pittsburgh			
Florida at Ottawa			
Toronto at Winnipeg			
Anaheim at Arizona			
N.Y. Rangers at Calgary			
L.A. Lakers at Colorado			
Chicago at Vancouver			
Philadelphia at Vegas			

## YEAR IN REVIEW

## MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

## Leonard led the way in the NBA with his big play

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

**H**e was the Fun Guy. The board man who got paid. He overcame injury to reclaim his rightful place as one of the very best basketball players on the planet. He conquered the NBA world for a second time, bringing a championship to Canada. And then he joined the Los Angeles Clippers, ready to start anew.

"What it do, baby?"

For Kawhi Leonard in 2019, there finally is an answer to his infamous question: He did everything, without talking much.

Leonard is The Associated Press' male athlete of the year for 2019, comfortably winning a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers. He becomes the fifth NBA player to win the award, joining Larry Bird (1986), three-time recipient Michael Jordan (1991 through 1993), three-time recipient LeBron James (2013, 2016, 2018) and Stephen Curry (2015). The award has been made annually since 1931, and Simone Biles was announced Thursday as the women's recipient for 2019.

Leonard was the NBA Finals MVP for the second time, leading Toronto to its first championship — five years after he first smudged his fingerprints on both trophies with the San Antonio Spurs. He wound up leaving the Raptors in the summer for the Clippers, returning to his native Southern California and turning the historically woeful franchise into one of the top teams in the league.

"The ride was fun," Leonard said earlier this month on his return trip to Toronto, summing up his year with the Raptors. "I had a great time."

By now, it's no secret that Leonard is a man of few words.

He is not a man of few accomplishments.

He received more than twice as many points in the balloting as any of the other 18 vote-getters. Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson was second, followed by Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, tennis star Rafael Nadal and reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks.

"Kawhi's pretty steady," said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, Leonard's former coach with the Spurs. "He's not a big talker. He doesn't try to find the lime-

## Voting totals

Athlete	Pts
Kawhi Leonard	42
Lamar Jackson	19
Patrick Mahomes	17
Rafael Nadal	16
Giannis Antetokounmpo	15
Tom Brady	13
Brooks Koepka	12
Zion Williamson	9
Kyle Busch	8
Caleb Dressel	6
Joe Burrow	6
Lionel Messi	5
Pieter-Steph du Toit	3
Stephen Strasburg	2
Mike Trout	2
Novak Djokovic	2
Lewis Hamilton	1
Rory McIlroy	1
Mohamed Salah	1

light or anything like that. He's just a good guy who wanted to be good."

Somewhere along the way, he became great.

Leonard was the best player in last season's playoffs, after a regular season where he missed 22 games mostly because of what has become known as "load management" — the fancy term used on nights when he would sit out to rest. Leonard missed most of the 2017-18 season with the Spurs because of a complicated leg issue, and the NBA said last month that he is still dealing with "an ongoing injury to the patella tendon in his left knee."

He was limping at times in the playoffs, but it didn't matter. He averaged 30.5 points and 9.1 rebounds in the playoffs. His 732 points in last year's playoffs ranking as the third-most in any NBA playoff year. In the biggest times, he came up the biggest — 15 points in the fourth quarter to carry Toronto past Milwaukee in the series-turning Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals, and 17 points in the fourth quarter of Game 4 of the NBA Finals against Golden State to put the Raptors on the cusp of the title.

And, of course, he made The Shot: the four-bounce-off-the-rim, at-the-buzzer jump shot from the corner to beat Philadelphia in Game 7 of the second round.

"Without a doubt," Raptors coach Nick Nurse mused during the playoff run, "the best thing about this thing is that somehow I wound up on the sideline getting to watch this guy play up close."



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard, center, celebrates his game-winning basket as time expired at the end of an NBA Eastern Conference semifinal basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers. Leonard helped the Raptors win the NBA title, his second championship.

**'It's not about me being famous or wanting to have more fame than those guys. It's about me playing basketball and having fun on the floor.'**

Kawhi Leonard

On winning the NBA title with the Toronto Raptors, then signing with the Clippers

Leonard performed at that lofty level even while dealing with a major distraction. During the NBA Finals, it was revealed that Leonard filed a federal lawsuit against Nike and claimed the footwear and apparel giant was blocking him from using a logo that he believes he owns.

"There's a lot of guys that are like, 'Look, I'm going to find a way to win and in a seven-game series I'm going to get the best of you in the end,'" said Miami's Jimmy Butler, who was with Philadelphia last season and saw up-close what makes Leonard tick. "But he's definitely up there. Your respect just grows. Push, pull, whatever he's got to do. ... He's going to find a way."

During the playoffs, Leonard's "I'm a fun guy" quote that he offered on his arrival in Toronto

became a meme and a marketing slogan. So did his "Board man gets paid" line. And after the Raptors won the title, Serge Ibaka's video of Leonard went viral — they were in the back of a car, on the way to the parade, and Ibaka teed him up for the next unforgettable saying.

"Fun Guy, what's up baby?" Ibaka asked.

The answer was classic Leonard. Short, sweet, to the point.

"I'm playing to have fun and try to be the best player I can be," Leonard said. "I'm happy with myself and what I have done in my career and I'm just going to keep on from there. It's not about me being famous or wanting to have more fame than those guys. It's about me playing basketball and having fun on the floor."



DARREN ABATE/AP

Leonard left the Raptors in the summer for the Los Angeles Clippers, returning to his native Southern California and turning the franchise into one of the top teams in the league.



## YEAR IN REVIEW

## FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

## Greatest gymnast — it's a Simone thing

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

**T**hey're called "Simone Things," a catchall phrase for the casual ease with which Simone Biles seems to soar through her sport and her life.

The irony, of course, is that there's nothing casual or easy about it. The greatest gymnast of all time and 2019 Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year only makes it seem that way.

Those jaw-dropping routines that are rewriting her sport's code of points and redefining what can be done on the competition floor? Borne from a mix of natural talent, hard work and a splash of ego.

The 25 world championship medals, the most by any gymnast ever? The result of a promise the 22-year-old made to herself when she returned to competition in 2017 after taking time off following her golden run at the 2016 Olympics.

The stoicism and grace she has shown in becoming an advocate for survivors — herself included — and an agent for change in the wake of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal that's shaken USA Gymnastics to its core? The byproduct of a conscious decision to embrace the immense clout she carries.

"I realize now with the platform I have, it will be powerful if I speak up and speak for what I believe in," Biles said. "It's an honor to speak for those that are less fortunate. So if I can be a voice for them in a positive manner, then of course I'm going to do whatever I can."

And it's that mission — combined with her otherworldly skill and boundless charisma — that's enabled Biles to keep gymnastics in the spotlight, a rarity for a sport that typically retreats into the background once the Olympic flame goes out. She is the first gymnast to be named AP Female Athlete of the Year twice and the first to win it in a non-Olympic year.

Biles edged U.S. women's soccer star Megan Rapinoe in a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers. Skiing star Mikaela Shiffrin placed third, with WNBA MVP Elena Delle Donne fourth. Biles captured the award in 2016 following a shoozopping performance at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, where she won five medals in all, four of them gold. She spent most of the following 12 months taking a break before returning to the gym in the fall of 2017, saying she owed it to herself to mine the depth of her talent.

Check social media following one of her routines and you'll find people — from LeBron James to Michelle Obama to Chrissy Teigen — struggling to distill what they've witnessed into 280 characters or fewer, with whatever



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE RIEDEL (TOP) AND MARIAN MURAT (BOTTOM)/AP

**Above:** Simone Biles practices on the vault for the senior women's competition at the 2019 U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Kansas City, Mo. **Below:** She won five gold medals at the Gymnastics World Championships this year in Stuttgart, Germany. She is the first gymnast to win the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year award twice and the first to win it in a non-Olympic year.

they settle on typically followed by multiple exclamation points and a goat emoji, a nod to Biles being considered the Greatest Of All Time.

Her triple-twisting double-flip (the "triple double") at the end of her first tumbling pass on floor exercise is a wondrous blur. Her double-twisting double-flip beam dismount (the "double double") is so tough the International Gymnastics Federation made the unusual decision to downplay its value in an effort to deter other gymnasts from even trying it.

This is the blessing and the

curse of making the nearly impossible look tantalizingly attainable. When Biles learned about the FIG's decision, she vented on Twitter, her palpable frustration highlighting the realism she's maintained even as her first name has become synonymous with her sport's royalty.

It can lead to a bit of a balancing act. In some ways, she's still the kid from Texas who just wants to hang out with her boyfriend and her dog and go to the grocery store without being bothered. In other ways, she's trying to be respectful of the world she's built.

## Voting totals

Athlete	Pts
Simone Biles	66
Megan Rapinoe	60
Mikaela Shiffrin	26
Elena Delle Donne	12
Ash Barty	6
Sifan Hassan	4
Sabrina Ionescu	3
Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce	3
Jim-Young Ko	1
Amanda Nunes	1
Simone Manuel	1

Take the GOAT thing. It's a title she embraces — Biles wore a goat-themed leotard during training at the national championships in August — but also takes with a grain of salt, determined to stay grounded even as the hype around her grows.

Biles has become aware over the last three years that her word and action carries greater weight than she ever imagined. Her most impactful moment of 2019 might not have come during a meet but sitting for an interview on the eve of winning her record sixth national title, when she fought back tears while talking about how USA Gymnastics, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the FBI failed to protect athletes during an investigation into Nassar's abusive behavior.

The moment went viral, as most things surrounding her do.

"I'm starting to realize it's not just the gymnetnet anymore," Biles said, using the term for her sport's dedicated fans. "It's an overall thing. It's weird to get that kind of attention, but at the end of the day, I feel gymnastics has been overlooked in non-Olympic years. Yeah, it puts pressure on me. But I'm not trying to think about all the attention from the outside world."

The attention figures to only grow in the run-up to Tokyo, where she will attempt to become the first female gymnast in more than half a century to repeat as Olympic champion. Her smiling face serves as the exclamation point at the end of every television promo for the Summer Games.

Let it be known: The smile is real. That might not have always been the case, but is now. Heading into the final months of a singular career, she is trying to revel in the journey while anxiously awaiting what's next. Add it to the list of Simone Things.

"I feel like this is the beginning of my life and I don't want gymnastics to be my whole entire life," she said. "I'm definitely going to soak in the moment and enjoy it so 10 years from now I can look back and say 'I had the time of my life out there'... rather than 'I was good, but I was miserable.'"



## YEAR IN REVIEW

## Karma had hand in feel-good moments

By JIM LITKE  
Associated Press

**K**arma had a career year in 2019. She draped a green jacket on Tiger Woods, handed soccer's World Cup to a tough-as-nails U.S. Women's National Team, shipped the NBA's Larry O'Brien Trophy to a cool-as-they-come rookie coach and players from the Great White North, righted a wrong that happened a quarter-mile from the finish line at the Kentucky Derby, and turned a baseball tribute to a fallen teammate into something truly unforgettable.

So if sports didn't make you smile at least once in the past 12 months, well, that's probably on you.

Here are the top five feel-good stories of 2019 (and one honorable mention):

■ Fourteen years after his last Masters win and 11 years after his last major, after fighting through chronic back problems, multiple surgeries, a bout with painkillers and long after just about everybody had written him off, Woods claimed his fifth green jacket in April.

"It's overwhelming, just because of what's transpired," he said after victory. "It's unreal for me to experience this."

His win was called the "greatest comeback in sports," and "the feel-good story of the century."

But it might not even have been the most karmic moment in golf in 2019.

(Honorable mention) At the Phoenix Open in late January, PGA Tour pro Gary Woodland helped Amy Bockerstette, a community college golfer with Down Syndrome, finish off one of the most heart-warming par golf has ever seen. At the U.S. Open in June at Pebble Beach, he borrowed her mantra — "I've got this" — en route to the biggest win of his career.

Playing with Woodland in front of a big practice-day crowd, Bockerstette sensed he was more nervous than she was. So before each shot, she put Woodland at ease by reciting the repeats when tackling real-life's other challenges: "I've got this."

Five months later, with Woodland lead-



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Angels center fielder Mike Trout gestures toward a photo of Tyler Skaggs in center field prior to a game against the Detroit Tigers, in Anaheim, Calif., on July 29. Skaggs passed away on July 1. "We're always going to be thinking about him," Trout said.

ing the U.S. Open after three rounds, Bockerstette did it again. Woodland said Bockerstette's tweet the night before the final round helped make a difference this time.

"Amy told me a million times when we were on that hole. 'I've got this, I've got this,'" Woodland recalled after his win. "And I told myself that a million times today, 'I've got this.'"

■ The U.S. National Women's Team hardly needed reassuring. If anything, captain Megan Rapinoe and her teammates were deemed too brash as they galvanized across France in pursuit of their third World Cup — and second in a row. Along the way, they sparred with President Trump over politics and highlighted a gender-discrimination lawsuit against their own federation in a fight for recognition and equal pay.

They scored 13 goals against lowly Thailand in a group-stage match and caught flak for celebrating too much. They re-

sponded by celebrating subsequent tallies with snarky golf claps and tea-time toasts, remaining ruthless until the final whistle in a 2-0 championship-game win over the Netherlands.

"We've done exactly what we set out to do, done exactly what we wanted to do, said what we feel," said Rapinoe. "I know sometimes my voice is louder, but everybody is in this together."

■ The Toronto Raptors, on the other hand, weren't marked for greatness until that moment in Game 7 of a playoff series against Philadelphia, when Kawhi Leonard's buzzer-beating, fadeaway jumper bounced four times on the rim before capping a 92-90 win.

Lucky or not, the Raptors turned that break into a title. They outlasted Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference final and riding Leonard's masterful performances on both ends of the floor, ended the Golden State Warriors' dynastic dreams in six games.

■ A drenching rainstorm turned the

Churchill Downs track sloppy even before the start of the 145th Kentucky Derby in May. But the real mess materialized at the end, when Maximum Security, the first horse across the finish line, became the first winner disqualified for an in-race foul.

Track stewards poured out rainwater for 23 agonizing minutes before awarding the win to Country House, ruling that Maximum Security had drifted into the path of War of Will, setting off a dustup that affected at least two other horses. That decision turned the tote board upside-down and handed Bill Mott, a training legend who'd won everything else racing has to offer, his first Kentucky Derby.

"I'm glad I wasn't in their shoes," Mott said.

■ The sudden death of popular Los Angeles Angels left-hander Tyler Skaggs in early July rocked the baseball world. His death was later attributed to an overdose of opioids, sparking a rare agreement between Major League Baseball and the players union to add a treatment-based approach and evaluation protocol regarding opioid use to the current drug-testing program.

But the Angels weren't thinking long-term when they planned to honor Skaggs in their first home game — against the Seattle Mariners — after more than a week away. They wanted his teammates and fans to remember a promising young pitcher whose personality lit up the clubhouse.

The Angels players donned jerseys with Skaggs' name and his No. 45 on the back. His mother, Debbie, threw out the first pitch. Then the magic started.

Mike Trout hit a 454-foot home run to open the scoring. Pitchers Taylor Cole and Felix Pena combined to throw a no-hitter — the 11th in franchise history, which was the number Skaggs wore in high school. After scoring seven times in the first inning, the final score was 13-0, which aligned with Skaggs' 7/13 birthday.

After the final out, the Angels ventured out to the mound and laid their jerseys on the bump.

"We're always going to be thinking about him," Trout said.

## Woods' win at Augusta was an uplifting escape

By EDDIE PELLIS  
Associated Press

A green jacket. A heart-melting embrace. A stirring return to the top of golf by one of the sport's all-time greats.

In choosing Tiger Woods' victory at the Masters as The Associated Press sports story of the year, voters went with the uplifting escape of a great comeback over options that were as much about sports as the issues that enveloped them in 2019: politics, money and the growing push for equal pay and equal rights for women.

The voters, a mix of AP member sports editors and AP beat writers, elevated Woods' rousing victory at Augusta National over the runner-up entry: the U.S. women's soccer team's victory at the World Cup. That monthlong competition was punctuated by star Megan Rapinoe's push for pay equality for the women's team and an ongoing war of words with President Donald Trump.

Rapinoe's efforts to use sports

as a platform to discuss bigger issues was hardly a one-off in 2019. Of the top 12 stories in the balloting, only three — titles won by the Toronto Raptors, Washington Nationals and University of Virginia basketball team — stuck mainly to what happened between the lines.

The rest — including the blown call that cost the Saints a chance at the Super Bowl, a California law that threatens to upend the NCAA and Simone Biles' dominance at the gymnastics world championship — stuck mainly to what happened behind the sex-abuse crisis consuming the sport in the U.S. — were long-running sagas that went beyond a day or event. They painted sports not as an escape from the world's problems but merely another window into them.

It's no stretch to say that the whole of the Woods saga — namely, the sordid, pain-riddled, decade-long prelude to his victory in April — also fit into that category.

His downfall began in the wee hours the day after Thanksgiving in 2009, when he ran over a fire hydrant outside his house in

Florida, triggering an avalanche of stories about infidelity that would lead to the breakup of his marriage and play into the near-destruction of his career.

Part 2 was the injuries. Woods came close but did not return to his dominant form after his return to golf following his breakup with his wife. As time went on, his physical condition deteriorated. He didn't play in 2016 or 2017, and at the end of '17, he conceded his back was so bad that his days of competitive golf might be behind him.

There were four risky back surgeries. Woods also required a good deal of inner healing after a mortifying DUI arrest in 2017 that exposed his reliance on painkillers.

Through it all, Woods somehow kept nurturing his love for golf. And eventually, he found his game again. He climbed his way back to the top. He had close calls at two majors in 2018 — the British Open and PGA Championship — and then won the season-ending Tour Championship, as good a sign as any that, at 43, he could

take on the best and win.

Regular tournaments are not the majors, though, and no major is the Masters.

It was on the hallowed grounds of Augusta National where Woods set the marker. He blew away the field by 12 strokes in 1997 to win the first of his five green jackets and 15 major titles.

On that day, Woods came off the 18th green and wrapped himself in a warm embrace with his father, Earl, whose death in 2006 left an undeniable void in the player's life.

Although there had been a handful of close calls between his U.S. Open victory in 2008 and the start of 2019, it was clear that if there was a course where Woods could conjure the old magic and end a major drought, it would be Augusta National.

At one time, he might have overpowered the course and intimidated the competition. In 2019, he simply outlasted them both. He avoided mistakes while everyone else was making them. Instead of taking a lead into the last day,

then never giving anyone a whiff of hope, this was a comeback. He started the day two shots behind.

As AP golf writer Doug Ferguson wrote in his wrapup of the final day, "Woods never missed a shot that mattered over the final seven holes, taking the lead with a 5-iron to the fat of the green on the par-5 15th for a two-putt birdie, delivering the knockout with an 8-iron that rode down the ridge by the cup and settled 2 feet away for birdie on the 16th."

When it was over, Woods came to the same spot where he'd met Earl 22 years before. He scooped up his son, Charlie, and held him in a long embrace, then did the same with his 11-year-old daughter, Sam, and mother, Tilda.

For them to see what's like to have their dad win a major championship, I hope that's something they will never forget," Woods said.

Very few golf fans will. And in a sports year dominated by weightier topics, Woods at the Masters stood out as a comeback story that left people smiling at the end.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Scoreboard

## Bowl schedule

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
**Bahamas Bowl**  
 Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9  
**Frisco (Texas) Bowl**  
 Kent State 51, Utah State 41  
**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
**Celebration Bowl**  
 NC A&T 64, Alcorn State 44  
**New Mexico Bowl**  
 San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11  
**Cure Bowl**  
 Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16  
**Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl**  
 FAU 52, SMU 28  
**Camella Bowl**  
 Arkansas State 34, FIU 26  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
 Washington 38, Boise State 7  
**New Orleans Bowl**  
 Appalachian State 31, UAB 17  
**Monday, Dec. 23**  
**Gasparilla Bowl**  
 UCF 48, Marshall 25  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
**Hawaii Bowl**  
 Hawaii 38, BYU 34  
**Thursday, Dec. 26**  
**Independence Bowl**  
 Louisiana Tech 14, Miami 9  
**Quick Lane Bowl**  
 Pittsburgh 54, Eastern Michigan 30  
**Friday, Dec. 27**  
**Military Bowl**  
 North Carolina 55, Temple 13  
**Pinstripe Bowl**  
 Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21  
**Texas Bowl**  
 Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma State 21  
**Holiday Bowl**  
 Iowa 49, Southern Cal 24  
**Chester Bowl**  
 Air Force 31, Washington State 21  
**Saturday, Dec. 28**  
**Camping World Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Notre Dame 33, Iowa State 9  
**Cotton Bowl Classic**  
 Arlington, Texas  
 Penn State 53, Memphis 39  
**Peach Bowl**  
 Atlanta  
 LSU 63, Oklahoma 38  
**Fiesta Bowl**  
 Glendale, Ariz.  
 Clemson 29, Ohio State 23  
**Monday, Dec. 30**  
**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**  
 Dallas  
 Western Kentucky 23, Western Michigan 20  
**Music City Bowl**  
 Nashville, Tenn.  
 Louisville 38, Mississippi State 28  
**Redbox Bowl**  
 Santa Clara, Calif.  
 California 35, Illinois 20  
**Orange Bowl**  
 Miami Gardens, Fla.  
 Florida 35, Virginia Tech 28  
**Tuesday, Dec. 31**  
**Bell Bowl**  
 Charlotte, N.C.  
 Kentucky (7-5) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4)  
**Sun Bowl**  
 El Paso, Texas  
 Florida State (6-5) vs. Virginia State (7-5)  
**Liberty Bowl**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 Kansas State (8-4) vs. Navy (9-2)  
**Arizona Bowl**  
 Tucson, Ariz.  
 Wyoming (7-5) vs. Georgia State (7-5)  
**Alamo Bowl**  
 San Antonio  
 Texas (7-5) vs. Utah (11-2)  
**Wednesday, Jan. 1**  
**Citrus Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Michigan (9-3) vs. Alabama (10-2)  
**Outback Bowl**  
 Tampa, Fla.  
 Minnesota (10-2) vs. Wisconsin (9-3)  
**Rose Bowl**  
 Pasadena, Calif.  
 Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (9-3)  
**Sugar Bowl**  
 New Orleans  
 Georgia (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-2)  
**Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl**  
 Cincinnati (10-3) vs. Boston College (6-6)  
**Gator Bowl**  
 Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Indiana (6-6) vs. Tulane (7-5)  
**Friday, Jan. 3**  
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**  
 Boise  
 Ohio (6-6) vs. Nevada (7-5)  
**Saturday, Jan. 4**  
**Armed Forces Bowl**  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 Southern Miss (7-5) vs. Tulane (6-6)  
**Monday, Jan. 6**  
**LendingTree Bowl**  
 Mobile, Ala.  
 Miami (10-3) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (10-3)  
**Monday, Jan. 13**  
**College Football Championship**  
 New Orleans  
 Clemson (14-0) vs. LSU (14-0)  
**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
**East-West Shrine Classic**  
 At St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 East West  
**NFLPA Collegiate Bowl**  
 At Pasadena, Calif.  
 American vs. National

## NCAA FCS playoffs

**Championship**  
**Saturday, Jan. 11**  
**At Toyota Stadium**  
 Frisco, Texas  
 North Dakota State (15-0) vs. James Madison (14-1)



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Florida running back Lamical Perine, right, had 181 total offensive yards with two rushing touchdowns and a touchdown catch in a 36-28 defeat of Virginia in Monday's Orange Bowl in Miami Gardens, Fla.

# Perine powers No. 6 Florida

## Senior RB has 3 TDs in Orange Bowl defeat of Virginia

By STEVEN WINE  
 Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Lamical Perine scored on a 61-yard run in the opening minute and didn't stop until he climbed onto a platform for the postgame ceremony to receive the Orange Bowl's most valuable player trophy.

Perine totaled 181 yards rushing and receiving with three touchdowns Monday to help No. 6 Florida beat Virginia 36-28.

The win means the Gators (11-2) will likely finish in the Top 10 in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2008-09. Second-year coach Dan Mullen credited Perine and the rest of the senior class with leading the resurgence.

"They restored the Gator standards and are building what we want to build," said Mullen, who improved to 21-5 at Florida.

"My sophomore year, we were 4-7," Perine said. "We came back and had two double-digit win seasons. It's great, man."

Perine carried 13 times for a career-high 138 yards rushing at the end of a so-so senior season. He came into the game with only

538 yards rushing this year in the Gators' pass-oriented offense.

"He's one of the top running backs in the SEC," Mullen said. "People say, 'The stats say this, the stats say that.' But every time we needed a big run this season, he came up with it."

Perine was too quick and speedy for the Cavaliers, as his dash through their secondary on the first series showed. He also scored on a 10-yard run and caught a 16-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Trask.

The Cavaliers (9-5) lost their final two games but still posted their highest win total since 2007.

Trask capped a storybook junior season by throwing for 305 yards. He was lightly recruited and in late September became a starter for the first time since the ninth grade.

"This game is huge for this program," Trask said. "We just continued to grind every single week, and here we are winning the Orange Bowl. It's pretty incredible."

Florida totaled 549 yards, including a season-high 244 rushing, and didn't punt until midway through the third quarter. The

Gators exposed the weaknesses in a Virginia defense that allowed more than 23 points per game and gave up 62 to Clemson in an Atlantic Coast Conference title game loss.

"Tonight we faced a team that they decided they were going to stop the pass and drop a lot of guys into coverage," Mullen said. "We were able to take what they were giving us."

The Cavaliers' offense tried valiantly to keep up. Senior Bryce Perkins threw for 323 yards and four scores in the final game of his career.

### Closing it out

Tanner Cowley's 52-yard catch-and-run led to a Cavaliers touchdown that cut their deficit to 27-21 early in the fourth quarter. The Gators answered with a touchdown set up by Perine's 23-yard run to the 1.

Virginia drove 75 yards for a touchdown with 38 seconds left, but Florida recovered the ensuing side kick.

"We were a few plays short," Cavaliers coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

## Bowl roundup

# Cardinals rally past Bulldogs

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Micalle Cunningham threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 81 more, and Louisville capped coach Scott Satterfield's debut season by beating Mississippi State in the Music City Bowl.

The Cardinals (8-5) rallied from a 14-point deficit by scoring 31 straight points to finish their big turnaround from 2-10 last season. Louisville also finally beat Mississippi State on the field for the first time in six tries, though the series now is tied 3-3 thanks to a pair of forfeits by the Bulldogs in the 1970s.

Mississippi State (6-7) had been trying to finish the season with a three-game winning streak for the first time since 2013 and only the third time since the end of World War II. Instead, the Bulldogs go home having lost a bowl game in each of coach Joe Moorhead's two seasons.

**California 35, Illinois 20:** Chase Garbers threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score, leading the Bears over the Illini in the Redbox Bowl in Santa Clara, Calif.

Christopher Brown Jr. ran for 120 yards on 20 carries, and Makai Polk caught five passes for a season-high 105 yards as Cal (8-5) won its first bowl game since 2015.

Brandon Peters passed for 273 yards and one touchdown for Illinois (6-7) in his return after sitting out the regular-season finale with a concussion. Peters, who was shaken after diving out of bounds following a scramble late in the fourth quarter, completed 22 of 37 passes and added a team-high 68 rushing yards.

**Western Kentucky 23, Western Michigan 20:** Freshman Coby Munson kicked a career-long 52-yard field goal with no time left after a rules review to give the Hilltoppers a victory in the First Responder Bowl in Dallas.

Western Kentucky (9-4) drove 36 yards in 27 seconds before Munson kicked his third field goal. The clock had expired on a desperation heave that was knocked down, but Munson was given a chance on an additional play after a defensive substitution penalty against the Broncos for having 12 players on the field.



**Citrus Bowl**  
 Michigan vs. Alabama  
 AFN-Atlantic  
 7 p.m. Wednesday CET  
 3 a.m. Thursday JKT



**Outback Bowl**  
 Minnesota vs. Auburn  
 AFN-Sports  
 7 p.m. Wednesday CET  
 3 a.m. Thursday JKT



**Rose Bowl**  
 Oregon vs. Wisconsin  
 AFN-Sports  
 11:10 p.m. Wednesday CET  
 7:10 a.m. Thursday JKT



**Sugar Bowl**  
 Georgia vs. Baylor  
 AFN-Sports  
 2:50 a.m. Thursday CET  
 10:55 a.m. Thursday JKT



# SPORTS

## TIGER'S TALE

WOODS' COMEBACK AT MASTERS VOTED AP SPORTS STORY OF THE YEAR | PAGE 22

Tiger Woods celebrates as he wins the Masters on April 14 in Augusta, Ga. Fourteen years after his last Masters victory and 11 years after his last major, Woods claimed his fifth green jacket.

AP



■ NBA's Leonard is AP Male Athlete of the Year, Page 20



■ Gymnast Biles voted top female athlete, Page 21



■ Karma had a great sports year in 2019, Page 22

Senior RB Perine scores 3 TDs as Florida defeats Virginia in Orange Bowl » Page 23

Jags stand pat after going 6-10 » Page 18

